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TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION:

A NARRATIVE OF RECENT TRANSACTIONS,

INVOLVING

INQUIRIES IN REGARD TO THE PRINCIPLES

OF

HONOR, TRUTH, AND JUSTICE,

WHICH OBTAIN IN A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.

The book written to the famous letter of Miss Esther Dickson.

BY CATHERINE E. BEECHER.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

NEW YORK:
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THE Author is not desirous of extending the circulation of this work any farther than the evil it is designed to remedy has penetrated, and therefore has made such arrangements that its circulation will be secured without bringing it to the notice of editors by presentation copies. As, at present, it is chiefly designed for *clergymen*, notices will be inserted only in the religious papers, stating where the book is placed for sale.

As these pages will meet the eye of many of those ladies who are united with the writer in the educational enterprise to which she is devoted, this method is taken to inform them that the advent of the *Cholera* delayed the arrangements proposed by her for nearly a year. But a recent tour at the West has given assurance that *success beyond hope* has been secured, and in a few months a printed Report will be issued giving all the information that may be desired.

During the summer the writer's address will be ROUND HILL WATER CURE, NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

THE AUTHOR

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATES THIS VOLUME TO THE

PAROCHIAL CLERGY OF HER COUNTRY,

ESPECIALLY TO THE

CONGREGATIONAL PASTORS

OF

NEW ENGLAND.

TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE are occasions when great moral principles are thrown into such peril, as to demand unusual measures. Sometimes, to unreflecting minds, accustomed to regard specific acts rather than general tendencies, these occasions appear of small moment, and great surprise and disapprobation is felt at the commotion excited. But to enlarged minds, which are accustomed to regard comprehensive results, the otherwise insignificant occurrence becomes invested with all the dignity and importance that belong to the great principles with which it is connected.

In the days of our fathers, the small tax on tea, or a trifling stamp duty, became the occasion when honor, property, and life were periled in defence of great

principles of *political* safety. In the *ecclesiastical* world, and that very recently, a similar occasion aroused great excitement, when a dignitary of the episcopate was brought before the bar of public sentiment. The *purity of the ministerial character*, that great safeguard of the Protestant churches, was involved. Friendship, partisanship, fear, policy, all pleaded for silence and the quiet rectification of the evil. But it was not the redress of individual wrong, nor the infliction of individual justice, it was the *peril of a great principle*, that impelled the venerable fathers of that church to a course that shook its very foundations.

It is believed, that when the following facts are developed, it will be seen, that the present is a similar occasion, when, in another branch of the Christian church, there may be a similar struggle for *principles*, and for some of the most sacred and fundamental principles of truth and justice.

Before entering on the narration, it is important to set forth the principles which are endangered, that they may be impartially considered in their disconnected attitude.

Some of the most important principles involved, relates to those guards and regulations that protect the influence and authority of the *Protestant clergy*.

In the Catholic church, the authority and influence of the clergy rests mainly on the belief of some

divine efflux imparted by the ordination ceremony, and entirely independent of the moral character and opinions, either of those who impart, or those who receive this gift. The influence thus imparted, is that which pertains to *office*, and not that of *individual character*, and it belongs equally to the good and the bad, the wise and the foolish. And as the ministrations of priests thus ordained, are believed to be efficacious, irrespective of character, there is no special necessity, on this account, to limit admissions to this office to those only who are virtuous and devout.

But in the Protestant churches, the divine call to the ministry is made out simply by ascertaining, so far as may be practicable, that the candidate possesses the intellectual acquirements, the virtue, the piety, and the doctrinal belief requisite. And the ceremony of ordination is only a form of public consecration, and a certification to the churches of the qualifications of their pastors.

And all the influence and authority obtained by the Protestant clergy over the consciences and conduct of their people, rests solely on *the confidence* felt in the existence of these qualifications. Destroy confidence in the virtue and piety of the ministry, and instantly their influence is at an end. Nay, more, they become special objects of disgust and contempt.

For these reasons, it is a vital feature of ecclesias-

tical discipline, that whenever a minister falls into such known sin as to violate this confidence, he shall be suspended from his office till confession, contrition, and reformation restores it.

No less importance is attached to the holding and teaching of opinions contrary to the doctrines of Jesus Christ; and if, after due efforts to enlighten the understanding, it is found that a minister is holding and teaching what those who commissioned him believe to be contrary to the teachings of Christ in essential matters, they withdraw the commission which certifies what, in this case, would not be true.

And the confidence of the churches in the ministry, is exactly proportioned to the fidelity and strictness which is thus manifested in guarding the ministerial character. For this reason, the more elevated a man is in confidence and influence as a minister, the more vigilant is the watchfulness that this power shall not be abused. The moment it is generally believed that office, talents, and influence will protect a man in deviations from truth in opinion, or virtue in practice, that moment ministerial influence and authority ceases. The higher, then, a minister rises in the confidence of the churches, the more strictly he is watched, and the more rigorously he is dealt with, if he falters in doctrine or in practice.

The strictness and fidelity with which the clergy

in New England have fulfilled these obligations, have preserved to the Christian ministry an intelligent and beneficial influence over all classes of their people, unexampled in any other portion of the world.

One of the most interesting developments of this fact is manifested in the confidence, sympathy, and affection that exist between the ministry and the female members of their flock. But all this is entirely dependent on the confidence that exists in the piety, the purity, the honor, and the superior moral and intellectual endowments of their pastor. And just in proportion as this confidence is destroyed, the influence and authority of their minister with them is destroyed. For this reason it is, that ecclesiastical bodies are especially vigilant and vigorous in regard to all delinquencies, touching the purity and the interests of woman. So that the female sex are accustomed to look upon the ministers of Jesus Christ as their special guardians and protectors. The preservation of this grateful respect and confidence is one of the most sacred trusts committed to the ministry.

Another class of principles involved in this inquiry, are those relating to the protection of *character*, in both social and civil relations. There is nothing so dear to man or woman as the rights of character. "It is the immediate jewel of the soul." Or in the words of the wise man, "A good name is more to be desired than riches, and loving favor

than silver and gold." For this reason civil government establishes laws and penalties for the protection of character.

But there are some points where civil law must fail in securing any protection. For example, owing to the liabilities to excitement, to misapprehension, and to misconstruction, endless litigations would result from making *attacks on veracity* a penal offence. And so this, and other injuries that may be inflicted on the character and feelings, are left to other modes of protection.

And there are sanctions that avail when legal penalties are inadmissible. Among these are the *laws of honor*, and the penalties which *public sentiment* can inflict on all that is unjust and ungenerous. In regard to the laws of honor, some of the most cherished are those which protect the female sex. These have descended, through the military profession, from the age of chivalry, when to doubt the word of a knight, or to injure the fair fame of a lady, were crimes to be expiated by blood. The rules of honor, too, have been especially cherished by the legal profession, under the influence alike of a liberal education, and of a profession whose aim is to establish justice and equity. Still more have these rules of honor been maintained by that profession, whose great object is to promote truth and justice, not only in action but in the heart.

In reference to the interests of woman, the rules of honor have especially been brought to bear on those points where she is at once most defenceless, and most susceptible to suffering. It is in *the affections* that woman is exposed to the most suffering, and here, too, is where she most needs protection.

By the constitution of nature, by the ordinance of Providence, by the training of the family and school, by the influence of society, and by the whole current of poetry and literature, woman is educated to feel that a happy marriage is the summit of all earthly felicity. And yet, by a fantasy of custom, it has become one of the most disgraceful of all acts for a woman to acknowledge that she is seeking to attain this felicity. On the contrary, she is trained to all sorts of concealments and subterfuges, to make it appear as if it was a matter to which she is perfectly indifferent. And such is the influence of custom and high cultivation, that the more delicate, refined, and self-respecting a woman becomes, the more acute is the suffering inflicted, by any imputation of her delicacy in this respect.

It is owing to this, that the most stringent rules of honor are maintained in this direction. A man of high honor not only avoids every thing that would tempt a woman to manifest an interest which cannot be returned, but he scrupulously avoids every thing that would involve her in any such suspicion.

There is a certain amount and style of intercourse, that any lady can accept without any implication that is derogatory. There is another amount and style which no lady can receive without the implication, either that she is dishonorably encouraging approaches merely to gratify a mean vanity, or that she is willing to accept an offer of marriage; or, at least, is willing to be influenced to such a result.

Extraordinary and *exclusive* attentions rendered and received, in the opinion of all honorable and delicate persons, never can be terminated but by marriage, without disgrace to one of the parties, except on the ground of mutual plans and wishes, which for just reasons have been baffled. And when there has been such a termination, and no explanation is given, if the parties have heretofore maintained a character for delicacy and honor, the most charitable and honorable construction is due to them on the ground of past character.

In this aspect, there are few things deemed more dishonorable than for a gentleman to take a course that secures a display of a lady's willingness to receive public attentions, when he has no intentions to fulfill the expectations that may thus be awakened. While in the whole round of poltroonery, if there is any one act that, above all others, is marked as the climax of baseness, it is that a gentleman should tempt a woman to the indecorum of making

offers, which nature and custom alike decide that she is only to receive, and then *betray and disgrace her.*

A man of high honor, however innocent he may have been of any act that would tempt to such a result, would as soon cut out his tongue as to make such a disclosure.

The next class of principles involved in this matter, are those *rules of evidence* that are to prevail in questions involving rights of character. One of the most important of these is, that *established character* is the best kind of evidence to employ in repelling or substantiating injurious charges. This needs no illustration or argument.

Another maxim of justice is, that every person is to be presumed innocent till there is suitable *evidence* of guilt.

Another principle is the great rule of Christian charity, that in all cases where the character and circumstances will warrant ascribing *either* of two motives, the *most favorable* is to be assumed as the true one.

Another maxim is, that when parties are put on trial, all attempts to affect the decision by forestalling public sentiment, or *by influencing the judges* is a flagrant perversion of justice.

Another well-established maxim is, that *the circulation of statements injurious to character* when not founded on *proper* evidence, is *slander.*

But the most important maxim, in its relations to the present case, is the following: *Any person who accuses another of an act which is derogatory, and contrary to well-established character, is to be regarded and treated as a* SLANDERER, *till he brings proof of the charge.*

In the narrative which follows, will be seen the occasion which involves these great principles of truth, justice, and charity, and at the same time, the connection of the whole matter with the prosperity and interests of the most important and venerable institution of education in our country.

CHAPTER II.

THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

About two years since, the community, in which is located one of the oldest and most influential literary institutions of our country, was thrown into intense excitement by transactions, in the progress of which, a number of the faculty of that institution were involved. An appeal was made to the ecclesiastical body with which these gentlemen were connected, and in consequence of this, a committee of investigation was appointed.

At the investigation which ensued, full records were made of the testimony, which was all taken under oath. Most of the facts that follow are either copied from these records, or occurred under the immediate observation of the writer. Whatever rests on other authority will be duly indicated.

The most prominent character in this history, is a young gentleman, who recently had been a member of the Theological Seminary in the institution referred to, who was, at this time, a licentiate of one of the ecclesiastical associations of that county.

This gentleman seemed to have secured a high place in the estimation of both his friends and his instructors. His intimate friend and classmate represented him to the writer as a man of high moral principles, generous, truthful, and confiding. He stated that he was the only child of a widowed mother, that he had always been greatly indulged, and always provided abundantly with money. It, therefore, had been a matter of wonder to him, that residing in a large city, in such circumstances, he had escaped with so little that was injurious to his character.

He stated that, having no sisters, and soon after coming of age, no mother, he had not been at all accustomed to female society; so much so, that in his college life he had never known him to visit a lady. He also had no taste for that class of light literature which, to some extent, supplies the deficiency of a personal knowledge of the social world.

His teacher in theology stated in the investigation, that while a student in college his character was fair in every respect, that he knew him afterwards intimately, inasmuch as for the last eighteen months he had been a member of his family; and that he had never known a young man whom he considered more remote from all dishonorable conduct.

In the estimation of his friends and instructors he ranked high as a man of talent, and was spoken of

as the favorite pupil of his theological instructor. The following is taken from the testimony of one of his classmates, when examined under oath, in reply to questions put: "His religious character seemed to be more of the intellectual cast than otherwise. There are two classes of minds, one of feeling and the other of intellect, and this affects the Christian character. He belonged to the latter class. I have known him express a want of interest in ordinary prayer-meetings, as he doubted whether they were profitable. I do not remember to have seen him at monthly meetings for prayer, nor at preparatory lectures. I do not think he entered into these things very much."

From some developments known to the writer, it is believed that he enjoys wit and humor to an unusual degree; while at the same time, he is extremely susceptible to any thing like ridicule from others. He is the possessor of a handsome fortune, has a manly person, a good countenance, and the address of a gentleman. His remarkable devotion to his mother, and the melancholy incidents connected with her death, awakened much interest in him wherever these circumstances were known. At the time of this transaction, he was a licensed preacher of one of the ministerial associations of that city and vicinity.

About half a century ago one of the earliest home

missionaries from New England to the West commenced his labors in the wilds of Michigan. After years of successful labor, in which he laid the foundation of what are now some of the most prosperous churches at the West, he entered into his rest, leaving a widow and a family of young children, with no resource but the God of the widow and fatherless, and the friends He might raise up. Of this family, one son is now the leading clergyman in the city where these transactions occurred; while but a short time since, he was regarded as a prominent candidate for the presidency of the institution established there.

Some twenty years ago, in a retired upper room in the capital of that State, were assembled some thirty pupils, under the care of the writer and her sister. Those pupils will recall with many pleasant memories, the sign of "*The White Horses,*" that used to guide them to this quiet retreat.

If the writer were to make a list of the most gifted minds she has ever met, either male or female, among the highest on the list would stand *five* young maidens, that were then grouped around the writer, in that dawning experience of a teacher's life. And never did a teacher watch the unfoldings of intellect and moral life with more interest and delight! Of this number, one was the homeless daughter of that western home missionary.

Possessing an agreeable person, a pleasing and intelligent countenance, an eye of deep and earnest expression, a melodious voice, a fervid imagination, and the embryo of rare gifts of eloquence in thought and expression, she was pre-eminently one who would be pointed out as a *genius;* and one, too, so exuberant and unregulated, as to demand constant pruning and restraint. With this was united that natural delicacy and purity of mind, which frequently not only protects the young maiden from all coarseness and indecorum, but, even to full womanhood, renders it impossible for her even to conceive what impurity may be.

In disposition she was sensitive, impulsive, and transparent, possessing a keen longing for approbation, a morbid sensibility to criticism or blame, an honest truthfulness, and an entire freedom from all that could be called management or art. As one of the sisters of the writer was her classmate, and another her teacher, more than ordinary opportunities were afforded for learning her character.

By the kindness of the judicious and benevolent friend for whom she was named, (who was the daughter of one chief justice and the wife of another,) she was continued as a member of that lady's family, and under the care of the writer, for two or three years. During this period, she, and most of her classmates, commenced a religious life, and thus the

early stage of her Christian experience became a matter of anxious interest.

It so happened, that, repeatedly, three of her most gifted companions were competitors with her for *prizes in composition*, while success in this point became the highest object of her ambition. But her young companions had enjoyed opportunities for *discipline* that had been denied to her, while the judges of these productions were persons of cultivated and classic taste.

Averse to the manual part of the exercise, and possessing a remarkable verbal memory, it was her method to concoct her exercises by night; and then, in the morning, to draw aside some of her young competitors, and rehearse her effusions. The generous sympathy of those friends, enlisted alike by her confiding spirit, her enthusiastic manner, and her eloquent tones, cheered her with the belief that her productions would secure the success she anticipated. They were then committed to paper and brought to her teacher. The ruthless knife of criticism must then be applied, or she could have no chance of success; and few can realize the feelings of this young aspirant, as these exuberant and cherished buds of a fervid imagination were so ruthlessly cut off and thrown aside. Again and again she composed and recomposed, and yet it was

all in vain. She could neither satisfy her teacher nor gain the wished-for prize.

Few can understand or appreciate the trial and temptations that beset such a sensitive, impulsive, and prolific mind in such circumstances. And yet, though severely tried, no feelings of envy or ill-will were ever detected toward her successful companions. Instead of this, it was to them she went for sympathy, and through them it was that her complaints were brought to her teachers. So kindly were the feelings she excited, and so true and generous was the sympathy felt for her, that, it is believed, more than one of her competitors would cheerfully have relinquished whatever honor they had gained to soothe her acute disappointment.

It was in these circumstances that the fear was generated in the mind of her teacher, that the *desire of human estimation*, especially in the form of literary ambition, might prove a snare fatal to her spiritual well-being. And, then and afterwards, the fear was expressed, that, though sincere in her religious principles and feelings, they might fail in the day of trial.

In this period of her mental history, had her future career been anticipated by the data of her natural endowments and probable circumstances, it would have been predicted that her genius, her confiding frankness, her interesting appearance, her gifts of

eloquence, and her sincere aspirations after all that is good and pure, would make her an object of attention, and probably of excessive flattery.

On the other hand, her keen sensibility to blame or injustice, her transparency, sincerity, and impulsiveness, the dangerous power of keen and witty expression, and the want of the guidance and protection of parents and home, would make her an object of unjust depreciation. And thus it might happen, that, confiding in the representations of those who loved and admired her, she could not be made to comprehend how those who formed so different an estimate could be under the influence of good motives. And speaking exactly as she thought and felt, it could be foreseen how it might be, that in the same community there would be strange extremes of opinion, and singular alternations of regard and depreciation.

The persons who were objects of her regard, and to whom she confided her thoughts and feelings, would almost inevitably become enthusiastic admirers, while those who in any way came into antagonism, would be as decided in their dislike. And thus, too, in the collisions of life, warm friends might sometimes be changed to decided foes.

Years passed away, and the teacher and pupil never met, but during that time some of her productions were given to the public. These were read

with interest by her teacher, not only as developments of talent, but as indices of the moral and religious attitude of her mind. On one such occasion, a message was sent to her through a mutual friend, implying the same fears and warnings as were urged in her early life, in reference to the true end and aim of her earthly career. And thus from the beginning, the teacher of her youth, though honored and respected, was associated, not with admiration and approval where she most desired them, but with directly the opposite.

With these views of her character and liabilities, it afforded no little satisfaction to learn from the testimony of friends, that every year witnessed her steady gain in general esteem; and that, too, in communities where she was best known, and where she was surrounded by the most competent and impartial judges. For it was in what has often been called the Athens of our country, that she was permanently established.

Finally, it came to pass that the daughters of the first families in that community were, after leaving school, placed under her care to complete their education. Nay, in the neighboring capital, the pupils of the writer, after completing the course in her institution, were sent to the care of one, whom public opinion thus decided had become "wiser than her teachers."

But this was not all. Her acquisitions, not only in esthetical lore, but in more solid departments, were such, that eventually the married ladies where she resided, carried out a project for securing to themselves advantages similar to those enjoyed by their daughters; and in a short time a class of more than one hundred ladies, including the wives of the governor, judges, professors, and other dignitaries of society, were assembled to learn wisdom from her lips, devoting an unusual amount of time, and paying a liberal ticket fee for the opportunity.

The *eclat* of this arrangement was heightened by a compliment from the students of the university, where the largest literary society voted to offer her their elegantly furnished room for the accommodation of her class. This offer was accepted, and in return the ladies of the class placed in this room two beautiful statues, a Diana and an Apollo, as a graceful acknowledgment of the courtesy.

This compliment was repeated in the adjacent capital, the scene of her youthful ambition, where the leading ladies of the city united to form a similar class.

Whatever view may be taken of this transaction, it probably was one of the highest compliments ever paid to an American lady. Should it be said, as some since have chosen to say, that many entered into this matter simply as an act of kindness toward

the lady, all that is lost in the tribute to her intellectual claims, is more than gained by the compliment to her moral worth. For it would thus appear, that she had so gained on the respect and good-will of the community in which she was best known, that many were willing to pay a liberal ticket, and give several hours a week of their time, as a testimony of good-will, who were not influenced by the value they attached to her performances.

In another very important particular, the conduct of the community testified strongly to their high approbation of her character. A considerable portion of her life had been passed in boarding-houses, where both gentlemen and ladies meet as members of the same family. These are circumstances in which a lady's character for delicacy and propriety is speedily tested. At the time she was receiving young ladies from abroad to conduct their education, she took lodgings at the largest and most frequented hotel of the city, where she occupied rooms, and there received in her parlor the young ladies who constituted her classes. Moreover, for sometime, it was her custom to hold a kind of *levee* at her parlor, on which occasions she invited both the ladies and gentlemen of the city to meet her pupils. And as she was deemed particular and discriminating in her invitations, it was a coveted honor, particularly among young gentlemen, to be thus admitted to enjoy the

society of the choicest daughters of wealth and cultivation.

Now, the fact that the mothers of these young ladies, residents in the two cities where she had spent most of her life, were satisfied to entrust their daughters to her charge in such a position, and that they made no objections to arrangements which presupposed so much both of delicacy and discretion in her, is the best proof that can be given of the high character she has gained in these particulars. No woman can ever hope to secure a higher public testimonial in this respect, than was thus afforded. As to the qualities of truth, honor, and high moral principle, it would be an insult to all the patrons of her school, and to all the matron members of her classes, to suppose them in the least degree questionable.

In view of these facts it may be justly affirmed, that there is not a lady in our nation that could bring higher evidence, or from better sources, of *a well-established character*. And it was only a few months before the events to be narrated, that a pupil of hers and from one of the first families in the land, expressed the opinion to the writer, that there was *not another lady in New England* who had secured so enviable a reputation.

CHAPTER III.

THE NOTE OF INVITATION.

THE commencement of the acquaintance of the lady and gentleman whose characters have been described, and whose history has been so painfully united, is detailed in the following extracts from the testimony taken under oath, at the investigation to which reference has been made.

Testimony of a Lady Boarder.

IN the spring of 1845 I became acquainted with Miss D. She kept her room for three months, a perfect recluse, taking her meals there. After much persuasion, she agreed to accompany me to the table.

One day I remember directing her attention to the *peculiar* gaze of Mr. A. directed at her. At this time, we did not know his name. I was under the impression that she did not like my joking her about him, and desisted, always considering her rather prudish in such matters. I was so struck with the young man's manner at the table, that I felt anxious to learn his name, and did so. I noticed he changed his seat, and kept edging nearer and nearer to where we sat.

After this, Miss D. informed me that she expected to be introduced to this young stranger, that he had requested an

introduction to her through Mrs. F. She said she much preferred being acquainted with him, to sitting at the table with him, not knowing him, and yet have him direct all his attentions to her. She told me afterwards, that he had called, that she was pleased with him, and considered him quite an intelligent gentleman.

After the introduction, he took his seat directly opposite to Miss D. I thought his manner betrayed impassioned admiration. His attention attracted the notice of most of the ladies, children, and servants.

After I removed from the Hotel, I heard in a general way, that he visited and admired her, but not being in Miss D.'s confidence I never presumed to put any questions to her. Some six months after, I invited a few friends to spend the evening, among whom were Miss D. and Mr. A. He declined my invitation, having a previous engagement, but changed his mind and came at the close of the evening. As I had informed her of his refusal, she appeared surprised when he entered the room. Miss D. had nothing to do with this invitation. He appeared so devoted to her, that several of the ladies said he did not appear to know that there was any one else present.

What I have written here I have said to others; they were my opinions at the time, and are still the same. It is my firm belief, that so far as I am a judge, Miss D. is the last woman in existence that would be forward in her attentions to any gentleman. She has never appeared to me to court, or be pleased with the attentions of gentlemen generally. I have often thought her unnecessarily particular in this respect.

Answers to Cross-Examination.

I remember saying to Miss D. that I should not be surprised at his offering himself to her if he dared to, but I did not for a moment think she would accept him. I thought that she

thought it rather ridiculous that I should say such a thing. I felt that I was taking a liberty, as I felt so little acquainted with her. This was early in my acquaintance with her.

As to Mr. A.'s appearance at table, I remember thinking he seemed to be so lost in thought, or absent-minded, that he ate but very little. One day, returning to the table, I found him eating by himself after we had retired. I told Miss D. of it, and said, "you will have to avoid Mr. A., for he cannot eat when you are present." He really appeared to be fascinated. The ladies of the family often spoke of it.

Mr. A., to my knowledge, never paid any similar attention to any other ladies. He used to say "Good morning and evening" to me, but he directed his conversation chiefly to Miss D. I believe he called on me once after I removed from the Hotel.

As to the nature of his attentions, they were perfectly gentlemanly. By devoted attentions I mean, directing all his attention and conversation to her. I thought at first, after the introduction, that he had heard of her literary acquirements, and might admire her for that alone; but the more I saw of his actions at table, the more I was convinced it was something more.

Testimony of a College Professor.

Mr. A. called on me to speak of some circumstances pertaining to his difficulties. In the course of the conversation I made several inquiries of him. He called again, and in the plainest terms possible I repeated the same questions and received the same answers.

I asked Mr. A. if his acquaintance with Miss D. did not commence in consequence of an *express request* from him to be introduced to her.

He said that it did.

I asked him if he did not consider himself the originator—*the leader* in the whole affair of beginning the acquaintance.

He said that he did.

I asked him if he did not suppose that the reason why Miss D. sent him a note, in the first instance, was because she did not wish to have Mr. W. call at her room for the purpose of introducing him.

He replied that she had given him that reason for so doing.

I asked him if he did not believe that it was so.

He said that he did.

One of the incidents of this introduction is worthy of prominent attention, as it is intimately connected with the whole narrative; for it proved to be the first downward step in wrong, the *facilis discensus Averni*, from which there seemed to be no return.

It appears from the testimony of others, as well as from the acknowledgments of the young man himself, that the lady, in consequence of his expressed desire, sent him a note inviting him to visit her at her parlor. And this, her ordinary mode of invitation to gentlemen and ladies, was adopted to prevent another gentleman from coming to introduce him, whom she did not wish to receive.

Her note was delivered at the time when the gentleman, who it had been proposed should introduce him, was present, together with two other gentlemen. The note was exhibited to them. It was worded thus: "Miss D. will be happy to see Mr. A. at her rooms at the —— Hotel, this evening, or at any time that may be convenient to him." Mr. A. immediately went to visit the lady, when she informed him

(as he acknowledged in the above testimony,) of her reason for taking this method, instead of the one proposed to her by the lady. Immediately after this introduction, he penned a letter to a classmate of his in another theological institution, in which he gave a most ludicrous account of this transaction. This letter, for reasons which will appear hereafter, was read to the writer, and she has a distinct recollection of its contents. It commenced with describing the four gentlemen as smoking together, when a waiter enters and presents the note. It is communicated by the receiver to the whole company, whereupon it immediately becomes the subject of uproarious mirth. From the description of the scene, it is manifest that his friends conceived this to be a gross violation of propriety in the lady, for the purpose of securing an acquaintance with a gentleman, whose wealth and other advantages made him a desirable object for speculation. It was an unusually successful specimen of humorous composition, and no one could have heard it read without sharing in the merriment described; nor without feeling that the lady, who had made herself the subject of this ridicule, was severely punished for her folly. No mention was made in the letter of the fact that they were fellow-boarders in the hotel, nor that he had requested an introduction, nor of the reasons assigned by the lady for sending the note. The

single *impression* made by the letter was, that the lady had taken a fancy to the young gentleman, and in order to enjoy his society, had written to propose an assignation at some hotel in the city. This was the impression made, not only on the writer, but on his classmate to whom the letter was addressed. The unfavorable opinion of the lady thus produced by the young man on his friends, in reference to this matter, was never remedied by him. An extract from a letter of one of the gentlemen present on the occasion of the delivery of the note of invitation, exhibits the method adopted by the young man. Speaking of the other gentlemen present, the writer says, "They are honorable and high-minded men, and, as I believe, have not, or would not, mention the subject, having been *at the time urged not to do so.*" Instead, then, of explaining all the facts, which would have prevented any misconception, the young man allows his friends to go on under this injurious belief, and contents himself with *urging them not to mention the matter.*

In another letter, written some years after, referring to this transaction, the same gentleman says, "Mr. A. has constantly upheld her, in the face of attacks numerous and well-directed, from those who considered the motives which caused her to desire his acquaintance, unworthy of her mind and family." Thus to his blinded friends he sustained his own

character for honor and generosity, in seeming to be protecting the lady from the effects of her folly. The classmate who read the letter to the writer, also informed her that Mr. A., whenever this matter was brought up by his friends, always maintained that though it was *singular*, yet, considering all the circumstances, there was no impropriety in the lady's taking the method she did to secure his acquaintance, yet he never disclosed these circumstances. Nor was it until the investigation brought out the whole truth, that these friends were made to understand the true state of the case.

CHAPTER IV.

THE HOTEL.

The following extracts from the testimony taken under oath, will exhibit the progress of the acquaintance.

To appreciate the facts here detailed, it must be borne in mind that the lady, from her youth up, had avoided all those public attentions that would countenance the association of her name with that of any particular gentleman. The fact that her character in this respect was established, and the fact that the gentleman was her junior by ten years, led her to permit what, in other circumstances would have been avoided. Absorbed in her literary pursuits, and above the reach of ordinary gossip, it was long before she became aware of the construction put by others on this acquaintance. The following is from the testimony of their fellow-boarders.

Testimony of a Gentleman Boarder.

I boarded at the —— Hotel in the Winter and Summer of 1845. I observed that Mr. A. would leave his seat often and go

and sit at the table where Miss D. sat; not at breakfast only, but at dinner and sometimes at supper. He would often walk out of the room with her. The gentlemen where I sat were accustomed to talk of Mr. A.'s attentions to Miss D. as indicative of interest in her. By interest I mean, something more than that he was pleased with her intellectual attainments. It was that he was interested in her personal attractions. This was the way in which I understood these attentions, and in which they seemed to be understood by those who talked about them.

Testimony of another Gentleman Boarder.

My attention was called, not unfrequently, to the fact that Mr. A. would leave his seat at breakfast, and take a seat by Miss D. His attentions to her were such as a gentleman would be apt to pay to a lady to whom he was attached; something more than ordinary attentions.

Testimony of another Gentleman Boarder.

My attention was called by some remarks on Mr. A.'s leaving his seat and going to sit by Miss D. at table. I was ordinarily late at breakfast. Mr. A. would go, after he had finished his breakfast, and take a cup of coffee and sit by Miss D. He seemed peculiarly attentive. It was spoken of generally by the gentlemen; not very seriously, nor very jokingly.

Testimony of the Servant.

I had charge of Miss D.'s parlor. Mr. A. used to be there as often as two or three times a week. He stayed late in the evening, sometimes till ten, sometimes till eleven o'clock.

The discovery of the disagreeable result of such attentions, made it imperative to take some decided

step. But what is to be done by a lady in such circumstances? To speak or to act in such a way as to make her young friend suppose that she, or any one else, was misconstruing his attentions, was to involve her own delicacy. To repel his kindness and avoid his society, without assigning any reason, would pain and perplex him. The only alternative was to attempt a medium course, and gradually to diminish the degree of intimacy. At this juncture it was that she decided to remove from the hotel, and reside in her brother's family.

CHAPTER V.

THE BROTHER'S HOME.

The facts here to be detailed may, without any explanation from either of the parties concerned, and especially in reference to the lady's well-established character for delicacy and honor, readily be made consistent by these considerations.

Let it be supposed that the young gentleman, having gained her esteem and kind interest as a friend, devotes himself to her in every way that is calculated to awaken interest. He enters into all her pursuits, makes himself master of those abstruser subjects of investigation that interest her, and qualifies himself to understand and appreciate the classic field of belles lettres in which she excels. He reads to her, studies with her, and confides to her all his own interests, plans, and concerns. For the first time brought into close intimacy with a refined and cultivated woman, he is entirely fascinated. And when he finds her, without any apparent reason, seeking to avoid his society, he remonstrates, he pleads, he appeals to her generous sympathies for one who has no

mother, no sister, no female friend to interest herself in his welfare.

At length the time comes when she becomes convinced that his sentiment towards her is something more than friendship. His deportment and language towards her are such as would be insulting on any other supposition, than that he designs to secure her hand. And yet, fearing a final and hopeless banishment if he ventures too far, she conjectures that he is trying indirect methods to learn whether such an attachment will be acceptable.

In these circumstances only these alternatives can be assumed by the lady. One is that the friend, who has wooed and won so true and deep an interest, is mean and base beyond belief, or that he is honorably and sincerely aiming to win her affections. She declines his advances as a lover. Then, hoping for the influence of future assiduities, he pleads to be received as *a brother*. She declines this, and then he asks simply for the privileges of friendship. She tries the experiment, and finds that there is no path of safety but to break off the intercourse entirely. But by this time she finds that she is contending not only against another mind, but against the pleadings of her own heart; and then is seen all that vacillation of purpose which exists when the judgment and the feelings are in conflict. Meantime, her family friends have less faith in his honor than she cherishes,

and endeavor to persuade her to relinquish all intercourse with him, finally and forever.

At certain periods, her own mind is harassed with the fear that this friend is base and treacherous, and at such times she feels that *justice to him* requires that she shall permit him fully to explain himself. Such an explanation would not only free her mind from suspicions disgraceful to him, but enable her to take such a decided course as would permit him, after he was convinced that he could hope for nothing more, to enjoy her society as a friend, and on such terms as would remove all embarrassment. These considerations will throw light on the details which follow, in the extracts from the testimony.

Deposition of the Mother.

A. D. being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that on a visit to N., from the 16th of August to the 21st of October, 1845, I had frequent opportunities of observing the relations subsisting between my daughter, Miss D., and Mr. A. I had heard of Mr. A.'s attentions to my daughter, before I went to N., but had supposed that the acquaintance had been discontinued, never to be renewed, and was surprised to learn from her, on my arrival there, Aug. 16th, 1845, that he was still visiting her, and paying her the same kind of attentions as before. I objected to her receiving such attentions from a gentleman whom she thought it impossible for her to marry, and think I expressed my regret at finding the acquaintance still continued.

She told me that she had never been in such a state of irresolution and perplexity before; that she had not known how

to understand Mr. A.; that he was constantly making the most extravagant professions of admiration and affection for her, as if there had been no difference of age, and that he had that week proposed to make an explanation of his feelings and conduct to her, and had requested that he might come another evening for the sake of doing this.

She said that he came at the time proposed, but finding company there, asked leave to come again the next evening, which was the evening of my arrival, making three visits in three successive evenings, but that she came away (i. e., removed from the hotel to her brother's house) without seeing him.

She told me that Mr. A.'s conduct had been such as to make such an explanation necessary *on his own account*, as she had sometimes suspected that he had taken advantage of her being older than himself, to insult her with unmeaning expressions of regard.

She assured me again and again that nothing on earth would induce her to marry him, and that she much desired and *must have* an opportunity of telling him so. And this was not said lightly, but in the most earnest and impassioned manner.

I remonstrated against it, and insisted that she ought not to allow him to make an explanation in such a case. She said to me, in reply to this, that Mr. A.'s attentions to her, and her *permission* of them, had placed her on terms with him that made it necessary for her to have an opportunity of assuring him of this.

She told me that the disparity of years was such as would render such a connection a very unfortunate one; and that Mr. A.'s recent conduct had been such as to make her suspicious of his sentiment for her, and that his attachment might prove to be insincere.

Mr. A.'s subsequent behavior to her induced her to break off her acquaintance with him. She declared that it was impossible for her to remain on such terms with him any longer. I

was aware of her writing a note to him declining any farther acquaintance. She told me that she was determined never to give him an opportunity to speak to her again. She told him in that note, that she could not see him, again *even though he were to come to G. for that purpose.* As she supposed he was designing to do. She seemed to be very reluctant to take this step, and very unhappy in taking it. She said he had placed her in the most disagreeable circumstances in which she had ever been placed in her life, and that he had left her nothing else to do.

Mr. A.'s *letter from Saratoga*, in reply to the note to which I have referred, was first put into my hands in the absence of my daughter, and I gave it to her on her return. She declined opening it, and insisted upon returning it, and kept it some time unopened for that purpose. After much persuasion, I induced her to open it. I read this letter from Mr. A. It contained a declaration of warm, eternal, undying affection. I distinctly remember the expression, "I have loved you purely, fervently." He assured her in that letter, that his love for her was a love which no change in his circumstances could alter; that even though she should hate him, it would make no difference; that he should love her in life, and in death, and beyond it.

And yet, notwithstanding these extravagant declarations, he said something about loving her *as a brother*. I had never heard of such expressions of love from a brother to a sister. They seemed to me ludicrous and absurd in that connection. I thought it was a real *love-letter*, notwithstanding, and believe I told her so.

In the letter which my daughter wrote in reply to this, she declined any renewal of the relation proposed, on the ground of the injurious remarks which Mr. A.'s attentions to her had already occasioned, and she alluded to *other reasons* why such a relation was impossible. She told him in her letter, that her regard for him was disinterested and sisterly, but I think, not-

withstanding this, that the letter contained some strong expressions of interest.

I distinctly remember that she told him in that letter, that it would be impossible for her to meet him again on the terms on which they had formerly met. I went to H. about this time, and on my return my daughter told me that Mr. A. had called upon her very unexpectedly, soon after his return from Saratoga, that he had invited her to walk with him, and that she found, after she left the door with him, that he had not received her letter. She said that she declined talking with him on the subject, but that he insisted on her telling him whether she would receive his visits again, as she had done, and that she told him that she would not. She told me that he insisted upon it, and said that he could not see why such a relation was not very proper, and why he could not be a brother to her, and that she said to him very decidedly, "you cannot be my brother." I distinctly remember that my daughter told me that Mr. A. then inquired *whether there was not another relation* possible? When she told me this, I remarked to my daughter that I thought she had prevented Mr. A. from proposing it before, by her repulsive manner towards him, and by what she had written to him, and that he had inferred from all this that such a thing was impossible.

I remained in N. about two weeks after this, and know that Mr. A. made my daughter several visits during that time. He seemed to be putting himself on the same terms as before, notwithstanding all that had been said.

I inferred from this, that he was too deeply interested in her sufficiently to consider the objections referred to.

I understood from my daughter, the week before I left, that a conversation had occurred, in which Mr. A. had renewed his declarations of affection, and that if he himself had not proposed to communicate with her farther, on the same subject, at their next interview, she should have thought that he had expressed his views and feelings most explicitly.

My daughter evidently supposed at that time that the ques-

tion as to her future relations to Mr. A. was in her own hands. From what I saw of my daughter at that time, and from the feeling she expressed to me, I inferred that such a connection would be a very unhappy one for her; not on account of any want of interest in him, for I saw she seemed interested in him, but wholly on account of her being older than himself.

I, at first, endeavored to persuade her that this disparity of years, in a case so extraordinary, and where such a very remarkable attachment existed, was not, in itself, an essential objection. Subsequent conversations on the subject convinced me that, with her strong sensibility to what was unfortunate in it, nothing could be more undesirable for her; and with this view of the subject, I told her that she ought to decide against it at once.

Mr. A. visited my daughter again, the evening but one before I left N., and I learned from her that nothing was said at that time on the subject of their former conversation, but that, without any excuse on her part but an engagement, she had declined seeing him again for several weeks, really intending, as I believe, not to see him again at all.

After I returned to G., I heard that the acquaintance was broken off entirely. I was, therefore, much surprised to learn from my daughter, while on a visit at G., the following May, that Mr. A. was still visiting her. I was very sorry to hear this, and expressed my surprise and regret in the strongest manner. I urged and entreated her never to see him again, and never to permit him to speak to her again, on any pretense of friendship, or any pretense whatever. I told her that I believed him to be a very base and dishonorable man.

Her confidence in him seemed to be in a measure restored. Notwithstanding this, I still urged her to break off the acquaintance. Her sister took the same view of it, and urged her to the same course of conduct. I heard, after her return to N., that the acquaintance had been broken off, and knew no more about it, until I learned from my son that Mr. A. was

with my daughter at V. My daughter had written to me from that place, without naming him, because, as I suppose, she knew I should be troubled and displeased to hear it. My opinion of Mr. A. could not be altered. I still believed him to be a hypocritical and unprincipled man, and should have considered it a great misfortune to have had my daughter connected with him, even if there had been no disparity of years. I believe all my family were, at that time, of the same opinion.

Extracts from the Cross-examination.

I understood, before I came to N., that the acquaintance had been broken off by a letter from my daughter to her sister at Saratoga.

I learned that the acquaintance was broken off a second time after Commencement. I learned it from what I heard her say and from a note which she wrote, declining to see him, or to communicate with him in any way. I cannot say positively whether I read the note myself, or heard it read. This note was written before he left for Saratoga. I read his reply to this note myself. There was but one expression in it indicating the love of a brother, but the whole letter was that of most devoted attachment.

Just about the time of my leaving N., I understood the acquaintance was to end there.

I spent the whole time of my visit with my daughter, except three days. He called upon her often. It was the impression of my son's family, and my own, that he was addressing her as a suitor. He would request to know if he might call at certain times, if it was convenient for my daughter to see him. He invariably called at such times. He always came when she expected him, and gave him leave to come. I have no recollection of hearing as to any attachment *as a brother*, until *the letter from Saratoga.*

Testimony of the Brother.

My knowledge of Mr. A. was very slight. I had heard very favorable accounts of him as a scholar, and of his being a member of the church and of the Theological Seminary. I first met him at my sister's parlor at the —— Hotel. I perceived some books of his on her table, chiefly books of poetry.

The first public attention I noticed was his attending her to some public lecture. It was remarked upon by her sister and my daughter, and both spoke spontaneously. When next I observed some public attention from him to my sister, I spoke of it to her as undesirable.

After her removal from the Hotel to my house, I understood that Mr. A. had left for Saratoga. While he was there my sister received a letter from him. I read it at her request. [The brother stated, at another time, that her object was to obtain his judgment as to whether she should reply to it, on the assumption that it was a love letter.]

I have a distinct recollection of its contents, and of my remarks in regard to it. The letter was in reply to a note, [the one in which she told him she would not see him again, even if he were to come to G. for the purpose; which the mother read, or heard read, and certifies to in the preceding.] In this letter, which I read, he gave an account of the *progress of his affection for her.* He used this expression: "*Then I loved you!*" He said, "though you should hate me, my sentiment for you would remain unchanged." He said he should retain this sentiment through life, in death, and after death. The word "*fraternal,*" or some such expression, was somewhere used. I told my sister, (as evidence that it was a love letter,) that such a letter, to a married lady, would be in the highest degree insulting, and that at the South, a man who addressed a married lady in this way would be shot.

After Mr. A.'s return from Saratoga, I understood that there had been an explanation, and that Mr. A. was to visit

my sister only as a friend. He came often; at first stayed till ten, afterwards till eleven in the evening.

Three or four weeks after his return from Saratoga there was an interruption in his visits to my sister. At this time my sister brought to me the books which I understood had been presented to her by Mr. A., and I think I tied them in a bundle, and in my presence she sent them back to him by my son.

Then came a note from him, and I saw my sister fold it and send it back to him unopened. I saw her note in which she enveloped his. I did not like it exactly, and she made some alterations in conformity to my wishes, but not all that I wished. I should call it a *severe note.* For some time after there were no more visits from him. At this time I was not in my sister's confidence, and there seemed to me to be something mysterious about the matter.

Next, I observed my sister come in one night, from a party, under some excitement, after which, I observed that Mr. A.'s visits were renewed, and I understood again that she had consented to receive his visits only as a friend. These visits were less frequent and less protracted than at a former period. In the progress of time I thought his visits were becoming more frequent than was desirable, though I was not aware that there were any reports in regard to the matter in circulation.

I came home one night, at a late hour, and found him in the parlor with my sister after the family had retired. I began to close the windows and doors, and he then withdrew, and that seemed to be the termination of his visits, as he called only once afterwards.

* * * After my sister returned from the watering place, I heard that it was reported that she was going to be married to Mr. A. I said I should not be surprised if this were to come of it. I asked my sister about it, but she did not give me any satisfactory account of the matter.

Soon after, I met the young man, and expressed myself with

some excitement in regard to his public attentions to my sister, and said I ought to know the meaning of it. He said he meant nothing, and asked what attentions I meant. I replied "if you do not know what attentions I mean, it would be of no use to tell you; but I can tell you this, it would not be well for you to pay such attentions to any other lady, unless they *do* mean something."

Immediately after, I went to H. for the sole purpose of seeing my sister, to tell her never to exchange another word with that man, who, from all I could learn, was two thirds villain and the other third fool.

Testimony of the Nephew, (*Aged* 15.)

Mr. A. came to see my aunt three or four times a week. He never asked for any other member of the family. I retired at 10 o'clock; he never went away before I retired. There were no other persons in the room with them. If others were there when Mr. A. came, they would go out.

I remember carrying books back to him, which I understood were presents from him to her, and at two different times. I supposed it was because she objected to keeping presents from him.

I remember going to her room to tell her Mr. A. was below, and she declined seeing him. I remember twice when she refused to see him, and once when she hesitated long, and finally saw him. I remember carrying notes from her to him several times.

I remember there was a time when he ceased to visit at our house, and it was a few days after she had refused to see him. He came again and she told me to tell him she was engaged. Nevertheless he came in; I went and told her. She was displeased, began to write a card, but changed her mind and went down. He came again soon afterwards. He continued to come for two or three weeks; then I had the impression that it was broken off again.

Testimony of a Lady.

I remember inviting Miss D. to a society at our house in November or December, 1845. She did not accept the invitation, giving as her reason that she did not wish to meet Mr. A. I had told her that Mr. A. had been invited.

CHAPTER VI.

THE MYSTERIOUS FRIENDSHIP.

At the period when, from all outward indications, the family supposed that the acquaintance was finally terminated, it appeared that the parties were, by a singular coincidence, brought together, as will appear from these extracts from the evidence. It is of importance, because the young man's friends claimed that this rencounter was in consequence of her manœuvring. The first is extracted from the brother's testimony, and is introduced here as belonging to this topic.

After this, my sister went to a watering place, and then returned unexpectedly. She remained to attend a wedding, designing to return to the watering place. She did not start at the hour she designed, on account of the bridal party. I went to a livery stable and ordered a carriage to take her to the cars. When it came I saw a lady in it, and Mr. A. in attendance. I should have sent it away, but for the danger of losing her passage. I afterwards learned that he was staying with my sister at the watering place.

The next is the testimony of a College Professor, in regard to a conversation between himself and Mr. A.

I asked him if he thought, or believed, that Miss D. either said or did any thing, the 20th of September last, while on the way from N. to S., for the purpose of inducing him to accompany her on the continuation of her journey to V.

He stated unequivocally, in reply, that he did not believe that she either said or did any thing for any such purpose or object.

The subsequent details are taken in part from the testimony of persons influenced against the lady. See pp. 181, 182.

Testimony of Mr. H.

Miss D. came to my house in September. Mr. A. came to the village with her. She introduced him as her particular friend. From that form of expression I inferred that they were lovers. While they were with us they were very exclusive. They were always interested in each other's society. She took the lead in conversation.

The mode in which she manifested her interest in him was by being always at hand, and always ready to converse with him. They were so exclusive that others were induced to leave the parlor to them.

I inferred that they were engaged, from their particular attentions to one another. They walked together, and occupied the parlor together. Their conversation together seemed to be on literary subjects.

Extracts from the Deposition of Mrs. H.

Sometime in September, Miss D. came to my house and engaged board, accompanied by Mr. A. Two or three days after she engaged board for Mr. A. Then he went to N. and came back in a day or two, and both of them stayed at my house till the last of November.

During their stay, Mr. A. walked with her, and sat with her, and they were together most of the time. His attentions

were devoted to her in general, to the exclusion of other society.

Mr. A. did not generally manifest any disposition to seek the society of other ladies. I knew him once or twice to pay some little attentions to other ladies. The only cases I recollect are, on one occasion he walked to the next house with a lady, and the other was a conversation with this lady on some literary subject.

I never heard him say any thing on the subject of his business at this place. He did not seem to be doing any thing, except accompanying Miss D. I am not aware that he spent any time in studying or writing sermons.

He was with Miss D. a large portion of the time. When they were not walking, they were reading, or conversing together. They were left alone a great deal of the time when thus occupied. The family did not wish to annoy them with their presence.

Mr. A. was in the habit of walking with Miss D. every day, and several times a day. I think I have seen him walk once or twice with Mr. C. (his classmate,) and that is all I recollect of his walking with any person. Miss D. did not often walk without him. There were some days when Miss D. walked but very little; at other times, she walked two or three times a day.

It seemed to me an unusual affair, to say the least; I hardly understood it. Perhaps you might account for it by a high grade of literary sympathy. He seemed a *learner*, always ready to receive any opinion Miss D. advanced.

He never conversed in a low tone with any other person, except Miss D.

I certainly should not be willing that a daughter of mine should receive such attentions, with any other understanding than that of an intention to win her affections. I do not think her personal attentions toward him were any more marked than his toward her.

Toward the close of the time, we supposed that some diffi-

culty had occurred between them, but what it was we did not know.

Testimony of a Daughter of the Family.

I was at home all the time they were in the family. Went into the parlor morning, afternoon, and evening. Miss D. had given us to understand that they were engaged, and for some time we had no reason to doubt it. We saw that he was very much devoted to Miss D. His manners to her were deferential, and there was an absence of all familiarities in their intercourse.

I did not remain much in the room with them, because I thought it would be more agreeable to them to be alone. Whenever Miss D. was in the room, he was always devoted to her. He never walked with me, and never went to church with me. I thought if Miss D. had not been there, he sometimes would have gone with us. He might have paid us more attentions, if he had wished to do so. They talked on literary subjects, and things that we were not interested in.

I knew him once to go home with a lady; do not remember any other time when he showed any attention to any other lady. I have seen him walking often with Miss D. I do not remember seeing him walk with any other lady. I have seen them walking arm in arm. They were together after breakfast, till she was occupied with her baths. It was the same after dinner, and after supper.

I do not know that Mr. A. had any other occupation than to spend his time in Miss D.'s society. I never saw any other.

Testimony of a Lady Boarder of the Family.

The first I saw of them, Mr. A. was assisting Miss D. out of a carriage. After that, I usually saw them together; seldom saw them apart. I observed that they enjoyed each other's society more than they did that of any other persons.

They used to sit by each other's side a good deal, and walk out together.

Miss D. often took her breakfast later than the rest of the family. When she breakfasted with the family, Mr. A. was present. When she came later, he did not breakfast with the family.

The patients are required to walk a great deal. Miss D. was a patient, and Mr. A. was not. I do not remember ever seeing her walking alone, or with any other person than Mr. A.. I walked with her once myself, and Mr. A. was not present. Mr. A. never walked with me. I do not remember seeing him walk with any other lady than Miss D. I was but little in the room where they sat, sometimes because I did not like to be a third person to interrupt them, as they spoke in a low tone when discussing their books. Sometimes I stayed away, because I had other things to attend to.

I did not observe any thing different from that of friends in their intercourse, except that they were so much together, and for so long a time, (i. e., *ten weeks.*)

I do not know as I ever heard what brought him to the place. I supposed he *stayed* here, to enjoy Miss D.'s society. I do not know as he had any other business. I do not think that there was any gentleman in the habit of calling to see him. The only gentleman I recollect ever calling on him was the Rev. Mr. C., (his classmate, residing in the same place,) and I do not distinctly remember his coming.

I do not know that I ever saw more devoted attentions to a lady, on the part of a lover, than were paid to Miss D. by Mr. A. I was at the time aware of the disparity of age, but that fact made no difference in my impression as to the nature of the acquaintance. The impressions of the various members of the family, as to whether it was, or would be, an engagement, varied at different times.

One day they came in, after a long walk, looking very bright and happy, and at this time I concluded they were engaged.

I drew this conclusion from these appearances, in connection with the other circumstances stated.

A little while before they went away, I noticed a change in their manner. I did not think it amounted to a separation. It was something I did not understand.

Testimony of Mrs. H. B. S.

I became acquainted with Mr. A. at V. Miss D. was my early schoolmate, for two or three years, at H., some twenty years ago. I had an opportunity to notice the attentions of Mr. A. to Miss D. They were such attentions, on his part, as indicate "sentiment," very decidedly. Miss D. appeared just as any woman would who reciprocates an attachment.

Mr. A. was there ten weeks, apparently for no other purpose but to wait upon her. He took walks with her, and spent the evenings in reading to her. He repeatedly declined accompanying parties in our pleasure excursions, and soon afterwards would take the same walks with her alone. So rarely were they seen apart, that her friends, meeting her alone, would say: "Where is your shadow?"

We all inferred that there was a mutual attachment. I was aware of the disparity of age, and for some time it made me doubtful of the nature of the relation between them. The family and the public were aware of the same fact, and for some time were in doubt. The members of the family became satisfied of an engagement before others did.

The attentions paid by Mr. A. to Miss D. were such as are proper for a man to pay only to the woman he intends to marry. No disparity of years could have explained them so as to make it appear that there was no sentiment in them.

On one occasion, I overheard, at the public table, these remarks, among a few gentlemen: [it was the Sunday Mr. A. preached in the village. One person remarked, after hearing it said that a *husband* of one of the patients preached, and the

denial that he was her husband,*] "What, are they not married?" Another replied, "No, they are only engaged." Another remarked: "I thought they were a new married couple." I had perfect means of knowing that they were speaking of Mr. A. and Miss D.

At another time, I heard a lady say to a friend of Mr. A., "I think it neither gentlemanly, ministerial, or Christian, for a man to pay such attentions to a lady, if he does not mean to marry her." The same opinion I heard expressed often, and expressed it myself.

There was nothing in Miss D.'s demeanor unwomanly or improper, and the apparently *involuntary* manifestations of affection on the part of Mr. A. were very strong. Mr. A.'s devotion to Miss D. seemed to be *entire*, and the manner in which she received it excited no remarks, which I heard, disadvantageous to her.

At one time I learned, either directly from his classmate, Mr. C., or from my sister, that Mr. A. had stated to him that the acquaintance was first sought by Miss D. writing a note, inviting him to call upon her at a hotel; and that when a lady took such a step, he (Mr. A.) did not consider the gentleman responsible for the consequences.† This led me to suppose he intended to amuse himself by attentions to Miss D., without being responsible for the consequences. Subsequent observations, to which I have referred, removed this impression, and produced the conviction of sincere attachment.

Mr. A. appeared to be very happy, and I am not aware that he made any attempts to escape. He was remarked upon as being in a very happy frame of mind. A lady in the family gave his remarkably happy appearance as her reason for believing the engagement had taken place.

*That in brackets was omitted by this witness. It was testified to by the writer.

†It was afterwards stated by another witness that Mr. A. did not say the last part; i. e., "when a lady took such a step," &c. If so, then the lady naturally mingled her own just inference from what Mr. A. said, with her recollections of the conversation.

As to the question whether Miss D. is a woman of the world, having more than usual acquaintance with human nature, I reply, that she is a literary woman, and, if any thing, has less than usual knowledge of human nature, for ladies of her station, and opportunities of mingling with the world. Her conversational talents are remarkably good. As a belles-lettres scholar, she has been much courted.

I spent two evenings with them at their boarding-house. No other persons were present but my sister. I met them daily in our walks, but did not often have conversation with them at other times.

I saw them walking together, not only at the regular hours for walking, but at almost all times when walking was possible. I saw them going to the dress-maker's, and going a shopping.

In the conversations alluded to, his expression of countenance, tones of voice, and general appearance and manner, *did* indicate sentiment. He was in the habit of walking with his eyes fixed upon her, and his head inclined toward her, with every appearance of the most passionate devotion.

I have formed the opinion that Mr. A. played a double part all along, between his friends Mr. and Mrs. C. and Miss D. And these are my reasons: On one occasion Miss D. and Mr. A., together with Mr. and Mrs. C., joined us in an excursion for gathering chestnuts, and, *at this time*, he paid her no particular attention. She did not seek his society, but, on the contrary, preferred returning in the carriage with us to returning with him as she came. I supposed that it was the presence of Mr. and Mrs. C. that occasioned *his* conduct. This was the only time I ever saw them together in the company of Mr. and Mrs. C., and this was the only time in which he did not appear to me entirely devoted to her.

On another occasion, when Mr. A. was invited to tea by Mrs. C., she told me that he would not let Miss D. be invited.

My other reason is, the disparaging remarks made by Mr. A., before stated; [in his story of the note of introduction.]

The preceding gives the history of the affair chiefly by extracts from the testimony, up to the time of their departure from V.

In the details which follow, it will appear that a virtual engagement existed between the parties during the time of their sojourn there, until a few days before their departure. At that time a change in their relations became obvious. The influence of persons inimical to the lady, which had been from the first enlisted against her, was at that time openly and desperately exerted to prevent the consummation of this engagement. Alarmed at finding themselves excluded from his confidence on this subject, and seeing that remonstrance and ridicule were now apparently ineffectual, they even dispatched one of their number in person, on a journey of some two hundred miles, for the purpose of investigating the matter, with authority to proceed in it as the case might require. Before his arrival there, however, certain equivocal expressions on the part of Mr. A. had already produced a change in the relations of the parties. The lady had withdrawn herself from him, and refused to speak with him. But the contempt and indignation with which she at first regarded his conduct was soon abated by other considerations, as the subsequent narration will show, until, in the end, pity and apprehension for *him* became predominant; and, finally, the affair being amicably closed, they parted in kindness.

CHAPTER VII.

THE TEACHER AND PUPIL.

MANY years had elapsed after the writer and her sisters were associated with the lady whose history has been narrated, and during that time they had never met her, except once or twice, and then in circumstances to forbid any social interchanges. These three sisters, boarding together in the same private family, at a frequented watering place, were one day surprised by the arrival of their associate of former school days. She took board with them, and for nearly a fortnight they remained together in the closest intimacy.

Again she was seated by her early instructor, and with the same engaging frankness and enthusiasm, she narrated her past experience, her present plans and her future hopes. A brilliant career seemed opening before her, and one precisely congenial to her tastes. It was exactly the picture which in her youthful days would have appeared as the *beau ideal* of earthly felicity. She had just completed her

first course of historical instruction to the ladies of N., and with the most flattering success. Arrangements were being made for her to repeat them the ensuing fall in the adjacent capital. Letters were proffered in abundance, and from the highest sources, to secure similar classes in other cities.

One of the leading professors of the university in N. had also interested himself, with the most flattering earnestness, and furnished letters of almost unexampled eulogy to promote her success. At the same time, some of the leading literary gentlemen in Boston pledged themselves to secure her good classes there, while such offers were made her in New York, as, if fulfilled, would have secured her a fortune in a short time.

At one time it had been planned that she should form a small class of young ladies, and travel with them in Europe, and carry on their course of historical instruction amid the very scenes where the most interesting events of history transpired. And though this plan was deferred, it was by no means relinquished, or regarded as difficult to be accomplished.

She also read portions of a work she was preparing for the press, and mentioned the flattering proposals that has been made to her by certain publishers.

And it was touching, as well as amusing, to witness the exultation with which she perceived that she

had, at last, satisfied the taste and judgment of the severe critic of her early life.

But in one respect her teacher yet sighed and felt misgivings. She looked forward to her career of literary distinction, to the facilities for travel that would be furnished, to her visiting foreign lands with her admiring pupils and friends, and to all the adulation and flattery that would follow her steps. In fancying her visits to scenes of the old world, the enthusiasm that would glow in a mind so fervid and so stored with the riches of the classic fields where she might wander, it was not strange that Madam de Stael and her idealized self, the Italian Corinne, should occur to mind, and then that sad forebodings should recur as to the result of all these influences on the *spiritual* wellbeing of one so gifted and so beset with dangers. These forebodings were not expressed, but the design was formed to employ the present opportunity in attempts to invigorate the principles of spiritual strength and safety. But no—the work was to be taken from human agency! An Almighty Teacher, strict yet sympathising, severe yet gentle, loving and kind, *His* hand was to administer a discipline from which all human friendship would have shrunk in dismay!

After a short period it was agreed that she should return home to make permanent arrangements, and on her return the four friends were to take rooms

together in another boarding-house. And one great inducement to her return seemed, on her part, to be the continuance of this renewed friendly intercourse.

In a few days she returned, accompanied by the gentleman whose attentions to her have been narrated, and her friends immediately perceived that a great change had taken place in her views and plans. She so evidently wished to avoid them, that, for this and other causes, they decided not to join her as had been proposed.

It was not long before her friends understood the state of the case. Her heart had been beguiled, her judgment was overborne, and yet she so realized the hazards of the course she had chosen, that she was unwilling to meet the only friends who would be likely to remonstrate.

That it was a sincere attachment, could not be doubted, for what other motive could possibly induce such a woman to relinquish long-cherished plans, so congenial to her tastes, for the cares, the privations, the sacrifices that in this country so inevitably attend on domestic life. At the same time, the unusual risks to a woman, who would be keenly sensitive to what was objectionable in the connection, was a still more weighty cause for misgivings. It was with sincere apprehensions that the matter was discussed by her friends, and yet there seemed to be

no chance afforded to offer any counsel, or to exert any influence.

Week after week passed away, making the matter more and more decided, and finally her friends began to look on the bright side of the picture, and to hope for the best. It was remembered that in the world of religious literature, the gifted Charlotte Elizabeth found her best comfort and rest, amid her sore trials, in a similar connection. It was remembered that the brilliant Madam De Stael, also, found quiet happiness in such a relation, and the lines addressed to Corinne, when crowned at the Capitol, seemed to express the sentiment that has decided the fate of more than one woman of high literary distinction:

> Radiant daughter of the Sun,
> Now thy living wreath is won,
> Crowned of Rome! Oh! art thou not
> Happy in that glorious lot?
> Happier, happier far than thou,
> With the laurel on thy brow,
> She that makes the humblest hearth
> Lovely but to one on earth!

After the matter had become a subject of general observation and remark, both in the village and among the visitors, the writer one day discussed the subject with the class-mate of the young man who was the clergyman of the place. He stated, that in his opinion, it was not, and would not be, an engagement; and then he referred to the manner in which the acquaintance commenced, stating that she had,

before being introduced to him, *written him a note inviting him to meet her at a hotel.*

This produced a very unfavorable impression on the minds of her friends, and as neither of them had had any opportunity to learn either her principles or her practice, on such subjects, vague fears and suspicions naturally arose.

Not long after this, the writer accidentally met the two together at a spring where no others were present. Both of them were manifestly embarrassed, and this was not diminished by the jocose intimation, designed to apprise them, that both the public and their friends regarded them as lovers.

On another occasion a visit was paid by the writer and her sister, at their boarding-house. They were found in the parlor, by themselves, and the evening was passed in conversation with them. On both these occasions, remarks were made with the direct intention of observing their effect on the gentleman, who was no adept in controlling involuntary manifestations. The anticipated responses were obtained in the glowing cheek, the drooping eyelid, the embarrassed manner, and nothing was needed to convince an experienced eye that he was beyond all question a fascinated lover.

In regard to the lady herself, no other construction was admissible without entirely compromising both her delicacy and discretion.

That in this frequented watering-place, where she was liable every day to meet friends from every part of the country, a woman of her dignity and delicacy of character would appear every day walking arm-in-arm with a gentleman, and receiving such *public* and *exclusive* attentions, was on any other supposition incredible.

After some considerable time, the writer again discussed the matter with the clergyman of the place, and he informed her that his friend not only disclaimed all idea of matrimony, but ridiculed the idea. Knowing the various subterfuges by which many persons shield their consciences in such cases, this did not destroy the conviction that they were engaged. But it made it proper that the young man should be admonished of the impropriety of such remarks. She therefore requested his friend to say to him, that the friends of the lady considered his conduct, on any other supposition but the intention of marriage, as utterly unworthy the character of a gentleman or a Christian, and above all, of a Christian minister. This message was duly delivered, and yet, for weeks after, the same constant and public devotion was continued!

After this affair had gone on more than two months, the writer was obliged to visit the three cities where the lady was most extensively known. And well aware that an account of the matter would be

demanded in all quarters, a note was sent to her, containing an intimation of these facts. This happened to be at precisely the time when the members of the family observed a marked change in their deportment, as if there were some trouble or misunderstanding, though it had not been spoken of to the writer.

In consequence of the note sent to her, a call was made by her on her teacher, but it was in the presence of a large company. An opportunity was sought to say in a low tone, "What shall be said to friends when they inquire?" An expression of suppressed emotion passed over her countenance; her reply, however, was, "Say what you please?"

"Shall it be called *a Platonic flirtation?*" was the next inquiry.

"Say whatever you think best," was the only response.

Touched with sympathy, in the belief that she was dreading the opposition of friends, or the inevitable embarrassments before her, a note was sent to her the next day, containing words of encouragement and sympathy, and saying that the matter should not be represented as a "Platonic flirtation," but what was much more honorable and respectable, as a *matrimonial engagement.* And it was added, that whatever influence could be exerted to smooth her way, should not be wanting.

A grateful message was returned through a friend, saying, that she intended to call again. But she came not, and as nothing more was said or done, it was understood that she expected her friends to acknowledge the engagement as authorized by herself. Accordingly, wherever the writer went, in reply to all questions on the subject, this representation was made. Of course all her friends who inquired, understood that it was an acknowledged engagement, and on the authority of the lady herself.

In one of these cities an occurrence took place, which afterwards had a great effect on the writer's views of the case. In a boarding-house in Boston, she happened to meet, as a fellow-boarder, Mr. J., a gentleman whose literary career has been attended with some notoriety.

This gentleman informed the writer that he was under great obligations to Miss D. for her influence and exertions in his behalf at his first entrance on his public career * * *. The writer had learned previously, that in consequence of her efforts to procure patronage for him, which were conducted with her wonted enthusiasm, his name had been associated with hers as an admirer, though she had never accepted any public attentions, or done any thing to warrant such reports.

When the fact of her engagement was stated to

him by the writer, the confident manner in which he assumed that it could not be so, awakened curiosity. The reasons were then stated in evidence of her engagement, and yet he seemed utterly incredulous. When he was urged to tell his reasons, he at first declined, saying that he was under great obligations to the lady, thus implying that there was something to be said that would be disadvantageous. On further inquiry he said, that "Miss D. was not a woman that wished to marry, and he did not believe she would marry *any body*." His whole style of remark was such as awakened the suspicion that he had himself been trifled with, and that he regarded her as a woman who, as a matter of vanity, would lay snares to entrap the unwary. This, in connection with the indecorous manner in which the acquaintance was represented as commencing, and the strong involuntary as well as voluntary evidence witnessed of the attachment of the young gentleman supposed to be engaged to her, produced a most unfavorable and painful impression.

Could it be possible that such a woman was the slave of such a mean and ridiculous vanity? Common charity answered, No. And so the conviction continued, though with some misgivings, that whatever the termination might be, it would yet prove *to have been* an engagement. There were reasons

enough for supposing that an engagement, in such circumstances, could be amicably terminated, by both parties becoming equally convinced of its undesirable hazards.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE DENOUEMENT.

It is now important to detail the manner in which the affair became a matter of public notoriety, and finally, of ecclesiastical investigation. It has been shown how it came about, that the writer, in her visits to the three cities where the lady in question was widely acquainted, maintained the fact of an engagement, and gave such reasons for believing it, as authorized her friends to claim that it came from the lady's own admission. Indeed, there was nothing else to be said, except to confess that she had been carrying on a most flagrant and dishonorable flirtation.

On the return of Miss D. from the watering-place to her family and friends, she was, of course, placed in a most painful and embarrassing position. She resolved to meet the difficulty by *entire silence.* She gave no explanations, and made no complaints, even to her nearest family friends.

Meantime, the story of her engagement, originating from her allowing such marked and exclusive atten-

tions in so conspicuous a situation, and still more from the representations of the writer, apparently authorized by the lady herself, came to the knowledge of Mr. A.'s intimate associates. They at once denied the truth of that report, and immediately after this, stories, extremely disreputable to the lady, began to be circulated in N. (the place of her residence) on the authority of one of these gentlemen.

Professor R., a near relative and friend of the lady, hearing these disgraceful representations, proceeding from Mr. A.'s most intimate friends, and supposing that she still retained her confidence in him, thought it necessary to give her some intimation which might serve to put her on her guard against him. This intimation, however, was lost upon her. She supposed it to refer merely to the rumors from V. of her engagement, and of these she had now no explanation to offer. This was just after her return to N.

Immediately after this, Miss D. left her home in that place to pass the winter among her friends in a neighboring city, repeating there, at their request, the course of Historical instruction which she had already given to the ladies of N. During her absence, Professor R. heard the disgraceful statements above alluded to, repeated, and corroborated with the assurance that the gentleman from whom they proceeded, was so far in Mr. A.'s confidence, as to

have read Miss D.'s private correspondence with him. Supposing that she was still regarding Mr. A. with confidence, he felt himself again constrained to repeat the intimation he had before given her, and this time, in terms too explicit to be misunderstood any longer. A visit to the city where she was then residing, afforded him an opportunity for this communication.

On this occasion, the silence which the lady had hitherto observed, in relation to what had occurred at V., was for the first time broken. She assured her friend that she had no occasion to confide in Mr. A., and that the acquaintance was already discontinued. He expressed, very earnestly, the satisfaction which this intelligence gave him. After a few moment's silence, she added, "Mr. A. has offered himself to me." "I am very glad to hear it," was Professor R.'s reply, "I am glad to hear it *for his sake*. I think much better of him for it." He requested permission to communicate this fact to his wife, speaking in strong terms of her regard for Miss D., and adding, "Her feelings have been very much wounded at hearing these stories." This permission was refused. Subsequently, and with much reluctance, she gave him leave, however, to use this statement in one particular instance, in which it seemed to him that her honor imperiously required it.

He accordingly communicated it, under a promise

of entire secresy, to Miss J., the young lady from whom he had received the communication in relation to the exposure of Miss D.'s letters, a niece of one of the Theological professors, and a member of his family. This young lady was a family connection and intimate acquaintance of Mr. W., the gentleman whose agency in the introduction had been so decidedly declined. And Mr. W. was the person who was now boasting of having read her letters, and making these disgraceful charges against her. To him, or to some other friend of Mr. A.'s, the young lady thought it proper to communicate what Professor R. had told her, and Mr. A. himself was thus soon informed of it. He at once denied the truth of Miss D.'s statement, declared indignantly that there was "nothing in the affair—no sentiment—and never had been—not a thimbleful.'

Miss D., meanwhile, being still absent, had written (but not yet sent) a letter to Mr. A. requesting the immediate return of all her letters, and expressing in unequivocal terms her belief that his whole conduct towards her had evinced the most reckless disregard of every principle of justice and honor. Coming to N. for a day or two, just at this time, another conversation with Professor R. served to heighten these impressions. In consequence of this, she made some *alterations* in the letter which she had brought with her. The request for her *letters* was altered so as

to make it include *notes* also. The sentences in which the relation of the persons making these statements to Mr. A. was mentioned, were also recast; while two entire sentences, in which the impressions just received were very strongly expressed, were inserted in it. A passage at the close, alluding to articles which were inclosed with the letter, was also added. These alterations, of course, made it necessary to copy it. Professor R. happening to come into her brother's study, just as she had finished making this copy, from a sudden impulse, she offered to read it to him. She felt that the relative and friend, who was taking so deep an interest in her welfare, was entitled to something more than the partial confidence which his first communication had wrung from her. She now wished him to understand fully the nature of her relation to Mr. A.

Now, as Mr. A. was permitted to introduce in evidence, on the subsequent trial, his own description of this letter *from memory alone*, (having, as he stated, previously destroyed it,) it was thought proper to present, as a part of the rebutting testimony, the original, but imperfect draught above named, which had been accidentally preserved. The circumstances which had caused a copy of this to be sent, instead of the original, had been previously described by the lady on her cross examination. To supply the difference between the letter, *as sent to Mr. A.*, and this

original form of it, the alterations above described were introduced into it from memory, *as was expressly stated* when the letter was produced; the entire sentences being appended on loose slips, and the slighter alterations interlined.

Mr. A.'s calumnious description of the letter, which had been introduced and accepted as testimony, professedly depended throughout on *his* memory alone; whereas, in this case, only *a small portion* of the letter, and that portion *distinctly marked*, was excluded from the authenticity which belonged to the original letter. And even for that portion the exact verbal memory of the lady, so remarkably tested on the trial, was corroborated by Professor R., for the most part, even to the form of expression. For it will be remembered, that these passages had been added by Miss D., in consequence of a recent conversation with himself, and the strength and *peculiarity* of certain expressions contained in them, had naturally, under the circumstances, arrested his attention, and fixed themselves in his recollection.

Though all that is most important in this letter is contained in the original draught, as a proof of the extent to which the memory of the lady may be relied on in this instance, it may be proper to mention here the following circumstance. A subsequent letter, written (for reasons which will appear) within a few days of this, was made the subject of inquiry

on her cross-examination. She was requested to give a *full* description of it. As she had never seen it since the hour when it was written, she could only give the best which her *memory* could furnish. And so complete and minute was the description thus supplied, that the distinguished gentleman conducting the cross-examination, who had, as it afterwards appeared, *the letter itself* in his hands, was irresistibly led to the belief that she must have retained in her possession draughts of her letters to Mr. A. And when her account of it was completed, he instantly inquired of her, in his most searching and impressive manner, whether this were not the case.

The attempt to introduce into the original draught of the letter the alterations referred to, having tended, as it was thought, to affect its perspicuity, a fair copy was made of it. This copy being, as was believed by Miss D. and Professor R., a true reproduction of the one sent. This was presented in evidence, and along with it the original, in order that the exact *position* and *limits* of these alterations might be verified.

And yet, though all that Miss D. claimed for this letter was exactly stated, in summing up the evidence on the other side, a great point was made of the fact that she had presented on the trial "*an altered letter*," and the attention of the Reverend Committee was especially directed to that point. It was stated, subsequently, to various persons, on the

authority of one of the Theological professors who was most prominent in this affair, and the story was *extensively circulated,* that it had been discovered, in the course of the investigation, that one of the letters produced on the part of the lady had been *altered* by her; that even entire sentences *had been added!* And while the matter was still pending, members of the Association were informed, *in private,* of this melancholy and decisive circumstance, and on the authority of one who had had access to the testimony. To some it was stated in the form of an hypothesis. Thus, "suppose you should be told so and so! What would you say to that?" Two of the members of the Association to whom these representations were made, came directly from the person making them to the brother of the lady, to inquire into the foundation of these charges. To one of them the letter was exhibited. He was very much astonished. He had received *the impression* that the letter in question was a letter of Mr. A.'s, and that the additions were *forgeries!*

This original draught is now in the hands of the writer. The following is a copy of it. The sentences which were appended are here included in brackets. The interlined clauses occur in the first paragraph, and have been already sufficiently indicated. A paragraph in reference to a business transaction at the commencement, is omitted.

Letter to Mr. A.

"I must avail myself of this opportunity to request you to return to me every note and letter of mine, and every fragment of my correspondence, which you may still have in your possession, however unimportant you may esteem it. And I must ask you to tell me, without reserve, whether any person but yourself has ever seen these letters, by accident or otherwise, or whether any one has ever been made, in any way, aware of their contents. Intimations, from sources which I cannot disregard, suggest these inquiries to me. It happens, unfortunately, that your most sympathetic friends, and those who claim to be most deeply in your confidence, are persons not particularly friendly to me.

[Perhaps I ought not to be surprised at the way in which my name is mentioned by those who undertake to speak in your behalf, and who are supposed to speak from your authority. When I remember how unscrupulously my most sacred rights and interests have been already sacrificed in this affair, and that, too, without any imaginable object, in mere motiveless caprice, now that your interests really require you to vindicate yourself at my expense, surely I ought not to be surprised at any thing.]

Will you allow me, for your own sake, to suggest

to you some little caution on this subject. Were the impressions which now prevail in N., with regard to my relations to you, to come by any accident to the knowledge of either of my brothers, the affair would be likely to find a more memorable termination than the importance which you attach to it would seem to require. But even though I had received no intimation on this subject, the existence of these letters could not but be a matter of some anxiety to me, for they contain, some of them at least, sentiments which have no longer any existence; and I cannot endure that these memorials should remain to convict me of the miserable absurdity involved in them.

For the regard which I have hitherto professed for you, not insincerely indeed, has proved, I must acknowledge upon trial, not what I thought it to be, but wholly wanting in that radical element, which, in our theory and definition, you know, distinguished the false from the true; that element on which all permanence in sentiment is necessarily founded. The result certainly convicts me of an unpardonable self-deception, though I had no intention of deceiving you. My regard for you was one, which, I believe after all, ought to come under the head of what you call technically "*fancies;*" sentiments which naturally disappear with the illusions on which they are founded. Instead of being based, in this instance,

on any original affinities of character, I believe, to speak truly, on my part, it had no higher origin than that of mere *vanity*.

I do not think I should ever have distinguished you in the least, from the company of strangers in which I first met you, (indeed *I know* that I had already included you in the feeling of profound indifference with which I regarded them all,) but for that expression of overwhelming interest which you saw fit to assume towards me, and with which you easily contrived to startle my curiosity and attract my notice. What was marvelous about it only served to increase the effect, by the continual puzzle it offered. As our poor human nature is constituted, any one who will stoop to win regard in this way, will find it, generally, very easy. But then of what worth is it; a regard so won, when it is sure to disappear with the deception in which it originates? Of what worth is it compared with the losses, which, in this instance, it involved.

I must persist in saying, that the regard I have in various ways expressed to you, was one *founded wholly on those expressions of exclusive preference, of which you were, from the beginning of our acquaintance, so lavish towards me.* That *merely* friendly interest which I should naturally have felt for you, which your

circumstances were, of themselves, fitted to awaken; that sentiment of *simple* esteem which it became me to bestow upon you, was one which from the very first dawn of our acquaintance, you yourself* were continually rendering impossible.

[The reason why I have believed in these professions of regard, the reason why I have again and again renewed my confidence in you, after having been again and again compelled to doubt their sincerity; the reason, and the only reason was that you left me no alternative but one for which my experience of human nature had not prepared me, one which involved such utter moral worthlessness as I could by no struggle of imagination conceive of.]

Now that I know how wholly insincere those professions were; now that my knowledge of your relations to others removes the last lingering doubt with regard to the motives of your conduct towards me,—a doubt which the peculiarity of your relation to me suffered me still to cherish, and one for which I now despise myself;—now that your present behaviour betrays so manifestly not merely an utter want of friendship for me, but the absence of that common humanity with which even strangers regard each other; now that I know, past question, what your sentiments towards me have been, I begin to ascer-

* [By your expressions of a stronger sentiment.]

tain what sort of a regard it is, which I have so long cherished towards you. Thank God, there is no faintest lingering shadow of my former feelings towards you, which survives these discoveries. Take, I entreat you, the full benefit of this assurance. I desire you to place yourself just where you would have been, if you had never known me. I have no wish to interfere with any happiness which you may find yourself capable of attaining.

[I send you these manuscripts,* because I do not know but they may have some value to *you*. The pen, too, I return because it would be a waste in me to keep it; indeed, I should be sorry to have you believe that I would *preserve* any memorial, however slight, of an acquaintance which will always be to me the most disagreeable recollection of my life.

Please attend to the request with which this letter commences, as I shall leave town early on Monday."]

[In Mr. A.'s *description* of this letter, presented at the investigation, *certain portions* of it are distinctly preserved. The fact that he was charged in it with a betrayal of confidence was stated. The fact that the lady adverted in the letter to her former regard for him, and that she now claimed it to have been an illusion, was also stated. But that there was any reference in the letter to the foundation and

* Ethical and Theological Essays by Mr. A., presented to Miss D.

origin of that regard, does not appear from this description. The assurance that it had been solely the *result* of declarations and professions on his part, and so grounded on these declarations as to disappear at once with her belief in their sincerity, *this* statement, so important in its relation to the point at issue, was *entirely omitted* in Mr. A.'s description of this letter. Indeed, it would not appear from his account of it, that there was *any allusion* in the whole letter to any thing in his previous conduct, which would make the countenancing of the reports in question an act of especial baseness on his part. And yet all this was contained in that portion of the letter embraced in the *original* draught, in passages which *remain exactly as they were written;* and all this was in the letter as read to Professor R.]

The reply to this letter by Mr. A. was hastily read by the lady, and it contained some passages which induced her to believe that her friend was mistaken, and that he had nothing to do with the slanders in question. Returning then to her former more favorable construction of his conduct, she even apologized in a few hasty lines, for a suspicion so dishonorable to him; at the same time, however, repeating, though in kindlier terms, the assurance that any further acquaintance was impossible. Now, of all the lady's notes and letters, *this note of exculpation* was the only one which Mr. A. thought proper

to preserve. Having destroyed the *preceding* letter, and then given his own account of it, her acquittal, in *this*, from the charge of having circulated slanders and falsehoods, and her regret at having brought such charges against him, was easily construed into an acquittal of *all* blame in the matter, and an acknowledgment that the error and blame of the whole transaction was hers. Accordingly this use was made of it. [This was the letter which was so much talked of before the trial. Again and again, while the investigation was pending, the lady and her friends were informed that a letter was in existence which would *fully sustain Mr. A.'s charges against her.* To every such assurance the reply was, that if there were any such letter in existence, it was one which she had not written.] While *this* note was so carefully preserved by Mr. A., according to his own statement, not only the letter which preceded it, but that which followed it were *destroyed.*

Returning soon after from her winter at ——, the lady availed herself of the first opportunity that occurred to inform Professor R. that he had been misinformed, that the slanders to which he had referred were certainly not authorized by Mr. A., and that he had no connection with them whatever. Alarmed at finding her confidence in Mr. A. apparently in a measure restored, and especially alarmed at finding that she had written to him again to apol-

gize for unjust suspicions, (for she told him that she had done so,) her friend was only more than ever convinced of the necessity of putting an end to her confidence in this man altogether. He assured her that he had *not* been misinformed, and that she had been guilty of no injustice to Mr. A. in the letter for which she apologized, and finding that it was impossible to convince her of this by simply asserting it, he proceeded, very reluctantly, to furnish her with some of the particular information on which his previous statements were grounded. As to the slanders themselves, he said they were too disgraceful to be repeated to her. As to the betrayal of her confidence, the very man from whom those slanders proceeded, declared himself to be in Mr. A.'s confidence on this subject, and had strengthened his statements by assuring Miss J., (the young lady from whom this information proceeded,) that he had read "affectionate letters" addressed by her to Mr. A. Still Miss D. assured the gentleman that this was impossible. In support of this, she produced Mr. A.'s recent letter of denial, and read to him from it the following passages.

"I would state *most explicitly*, that whoever may *pretend* to share my confidence on the subject referred to, that confidence has been shared by *none*. The correspondence to which you allude has been *destroyed*, and *the knowledge of its very existence* has

been, and ever shall be, so far at least as I am concerned, confined to the correspondents."

Even this did not convince Professor R. It only made it necessary to explain to her, still further, the grounds on which his own belief rested, and the disclosures which he made were such, taken in connection with what she had herself before known of Mr. A., as to convince her that her worst suspicion had not wronged him. It was under these impressions, impressions which his subsequent conduct but too well confirmed, that she again addressed Mr. A., informing him that the meaning of his whole conduct was, at last, fully discovered to her, and (the silence which she had hitherto observed in regard to their relation at V., being now no longer binding upon her,) that she should immediately communicate to her friends, in her own defence, all that had transpired in her acquaintance with him.

This letter on Miss D.'s part, closes the correspondence. It constitutes, too, in other respects, an important point in the narrative.

Thus far the affair had remained a merely private one, involving only the original parties and their immediate friends. But the sending of this letter was at once followed, in rapid succession, by that most extraordinary series of developments and proceedings, on the part of men occupying the highest places of public trust, which at once rendered all the sub-

sequent notoriety of the affair *inevitable.* And, indeed, from the moment that these gentlemen publicly committed themselves to the course referred to, the whole affair ceased to be any lônger a matter ot private concern. From that moment it was no longer a question of persons and individual interests, but a great contest of *principles.* The principles on which society is founded were involved in it. From that moment every man and every woman who has any honor, or any hopes, or any affections which sanctioned treachery and calumny can reach, was concerned in the result.

It has been the practice of the other party, hitherto, to charge upon *the lady* the publicity of this affair. Now, as the successive stages of its development are here presented, it will be easy to note *the precise point* where this notoriety commences, *the form* which it assumes, and especially the kind of responsibility which belongs to the lady and her friends in the matter.

But before introducing the letter above-mentioned, in order that the letter itself, and the events which follow it, should be clearly understood, it is necessary to recall here some circumstances connected with the previous history of the affair.

It must be particularly noticed, then, that the person whose boast of having read the lady's private letters had just been conveyed to her; the person,

too, who was now putting in circulation statements so dishonorable to her, was in fact that same Mr. W. who, in the beginning, had proposed to introduce Mr. A. to her. He was a nephew of Mrs. F., the wife of one of the Theological professors, and the lady through whom this proposal was conveyed to Miss D. The latter could not, therefore, so readily explain to *her*, the scruples which induced her to address to Mr. A. the note of invitation, which was designed as a reply to this proposal. For it was the sole object of this note to limit to him the invitation, which in her verbal answer to Mrs. F. had been made to include her nephew also. But to Mr. A. she distinctly explained the matter. To him, "she gave as her reason that she did not wish Mr. W. to visit her." Mr. A. says himself, as the testimony shows, "I understood that to be her motive." He says, also, that Miss D. "did not like Mr. W.—that she had a low opinion of him;" and it would seem from what he adds, that she found it difficult to account for the apparent intimacy subsisting between these two gentlemen. This was not, however, on account of any special personal hostility toward this gentleman. She had visited in his father's family, had become acquainted with him there, and had been, for years, on terms of great intimacy and kindness with more than one member of his family. But there were *impressions then prevalent in society with*

regard to his character, which made it impossible for her to assume the responsibility of inviting him to her parlor. If she had been willing to do it on her own account, her responsibility to the young ladies who were constantly introduced to her acquaintances, would have forbade it. And, accordingly, long before the occasion of the note referred to, she had refused to include him in the invitations to her *soirees*, though solicited by a friend to do so; while, at the same time, her invitations to other members of the family served to emphasize this exclusion.

However disagreeable it may be to direct attention to these circumstances, it becomes necessary to do so, because the hostility which so naturally grew out of them, constitutes, from first to last, one of the main points in this history. It was this, which, from the very outset, began to prepare its inevitable *denouement*. For, of course, whatever was the ground of these scruples, whether true or not, the expression of them could not but tend to exasperate the young man himself, and such of his friends as were naturally interested in maintaining his social position. And when, in the final development of the affair, these circumstances became inevitably and painfully prominent, the tendency was to irritate against the lady, persons who would otherwise have been her friends. Even at the time, this effect was produced on those to whom the circumstances were commu-

nicated. That Mrs. F., the relative through whom this proposal was made, would be displeased, was, of course, to be anticipated. And certainly it was not very surprising that Mr. W. himself, should incline to any solution of the matter, however injurious to the lady, rather than to the very obvious one which she had herself given, viz., "that she did not wish *him* to visit her."

And, accordingly, it appears that Mr. W. and his friends, to whom the circumstance of the note was reported, were active in producing those same unfavorable impressions with regard to the origin of the acquaintance, which had been communicated to the writer on Mr. A.'s own authority at V.

Moreover, the calumnious misrepresentation was not limited to the affair of the introduction, but it embraced all the subsequent circumstances of the acquaintance. The attentions and extraordinary manifestations of interest on the part of Mr. A., at the hotel, which attracted the attention of strangers at the beginning of the acquaintance, his first journey to V., his subsequent return and protracted residence there, as Miss D.'s attendant, were all accounted for, and excused as the result of a series of uncompromising demands and manœuvres on the part of the lady herself. Not only the note of introduction, but other notes which were from time to time exhibited as coming from her, were referred to in proof

of this, Mr. A. himself assisting and countenancing the impression that they were "affectionate letters," or, at least, that they contained "*something peculiar.*"

In a place where the lady was so well and so favorably known as at N., and where so much evidence to the contrary existed, among those who had witnessed the circumstances attending the commencement of the acquaintance, it was necessary that such statements as these, made, too, on such authority, should be very carefully whispered. Though they had been in circulation there for more than a year, in the particular *clique* in which they originated, they had as yet produced no effect on society at large. But at the watering-place in V., where some of these statements began first to be freely circulated with such injurious results, the previous history and character of the lady were unknown. There, too, they were sustained by the *story of the introduction,* which exhibited such apparently incontestible evidence, that even those who had formerly known her could find no excuse for denying it. Coming too, as such statements did, there, from the lips of a newly settled pastor to his admiring congregation, they could hardly fail to create some prejudice in the minds of those who heard them, especially as he "denounced the idea of an engagement," or any sentiment on the part of the *gentleman* which could ever lead to one; thus ren-

dering the relation between the parties a matter of a gossiping surveillance, and leading to *constructions* which were afterwards made use of *to sustain* the very statements from which they proceeded.

It was just at this time, too, while the parties were both absent, that these statements, which, in the place of their residence had hitherto been so cautiously limited to one particular circle, began at last to be more boldly circulated. For the report of the engagement which was now universal there, and especially the report of the evidence on which it was founded, made it necessary for Mr. A.'s associates to produce *some* reason for denying it. And when at length the apparent termination of the affair, without any explanation on the part of the lady, had excited such surprise in the circle of her acquaintance, these statements were openly and boldly set forth by Mr. W., and other of Mr. A.'s associates, as the best explanation of *his* extraordinary conduct which they could produce. For they must either confess that an engagement had existed and was ended by the lady, or by mutual agreement, or else confess that Mr. A. had been guilty of conduct grossly dishonorable. They denied the first hypothesis, and endeavored to parry the charge involved in the last, by affirming that the lady had sought the acquaintance unsolicited, and had pertinaciously claimed all the subsequent attentions. And in order

to *sustain* this somewhat improbable statement, it was distinctly "affirmed" by Mr. W. that he had himself "read, or heard read," "affectionate letters,"—"billet-doux," addressed by the lady to his friend.

It was the communication of *this* assertion to the lady herself, at the very moment when she held in her hands the assurance she had just received from Mr. A., that "every fragment of that correspondence had been destroyed," and that "the knowledge of its *very existence* had been confined to the correspondents themselves;" it was this, which at last convinced her of the hopeless wickedness by which she had suffered, while it furnished the occasion for that final communication on her part, to which the progress of the narrative has now brought us.

Calumnious representations then, proceeding from *Mr. W. alone*, representations based, as it was *affirmed*, on the incontestible evidence of *letters* written by the lady herself, and claiming, too, the authority of Mr. A., for it was by his permission that Mr. W. had "read, or heard read," these notes or letters; such representations, limited at first to the particular *clique* in which they originated, but at length boldly circulated and communicated to the lady herself, *these*, and *these alone*, have brought the matter to its *present* position.

Similar statements had indeed been made, on the

authority of Mr. A. himself, at the watering-place in V., as has been already noticed. There, also, they had been set forth in his defence, and far more effectively than at N. For the clergyman of that place was the gentleman to whom Mr. A. had *written a letter*, containing his own account of the introduction, implying that the lady had sought the acquaintance without any request, or wish expressed on his part, by inviting him to meet her at a hotel. The moment, therefore, that the denial of the engagement on Mr. A.'s authority had awakened the astonished inquiry of those who witnessed his conduct, as to the meaning of it, this same statement, (the truth of which his friend had at that time no reason to doubt,) was produced there also, "by way of explaining the somewhat singular devotedness of his attentions to Miss D." But of all this the lady was as yet totally ignorant. She had herself virtually acknowledged the engagement there. She was unconscious of the position in which she had been placed by Mr. A.'s denial of it. She knew nothing of the story of the note as circulated there. The representations proceeding from Mr. W., and the assertions made by him, were, as yet, all that had reached her.

As to the previous history of the affair, whatever ground of complaint and distrust it may have involved, the note written by the lady to Mr. A., the

moment she became convinced that *he* had in no way authorized Mr. W.'s statement, or betrayed her confidence in him, (the note in which she apologized for believing that he could be guilty of such baseness, and in which she condigns the past to oblivion,) shows, of itself, and incontestibly, that the past alone, apart from these disclosures, could never have brought the matter to its present position.

There had been, indeed, a period in their former acquaintance, when his conduct had seemed to herself, for a time, scarcely less base than these disclosures had represented it to be; but that was, when she believed it to be the result of a deliberate design. Subsequent circumstances had soon convinced her that this view of it was wrong. Evidences of persevering machinations on the part of those who were interested against her, became at that time apparent, and might serve as palliations of his conduct. There had been, too, at least as it seemed to her then, incontestible proofs of the depth and reality of the attachment he had professed for her, evidences of *suffering*, too, which she could not see unmoved; and which, in connection with some passages in his former history, appealed to by himself, convinced her that whatever might have been the wrong of his previous conduct, he was then, at least, to be pitied as much as condemned. And what she witnessed on

that occasion, had convinced her judgment that there were reasons for discontinuing the engagement, far more important than that particular inequality which had been so long, and with her, so serious an obstacle to it. In the dissolving illusion which the previous circumstances of their acquaintance had favored, *other differences*, more painful and appalling, became, for the first time, evident. And in reviewing, from this point, the history of his singular devotion to herself, from its first extraordinary commencement, she began at times to regard *the whole* as a development, on his part, of constitutional moral and mental idiosyncrasies, which in some measure affected his amenability to the ordinary laws of morality and honor. Instead of believing that he had imposed upon the confidence he had so perseveringly won, by false professions, by deliberate fraud, and by the most hypocritical semblance of generosity, truth, and honor, she preferred to believe,—she was constrained, indeed, to believe, that these inscrutable peculiarities on his part, aided by sophistical habits of thought, and perhaps by circumstances of which she was ignorant, might so have perverted his judgment as to account in a different way for the course which had seemed to her, at first, so incomprehensibly wicked.

At all events, the trouble was one in which no sympathy could aid her. So far from wishing to in-

jure him, she voluntarily closed her lips on all that had occurred at V., even to her own detriment; and shielded him with her silence from the indignation which she supposed *others* would feel, or which she *knew* those who loved her would feel in hearing of it.

Once, indeed, after her return to N., her indignation was roused anew, on learning to what extent the circumstances that had occasioned the report of the engagement had been communicated there. She had almost determined to break this silence, but further consideration restrained her. And so shutting up again in her own heart the wrong and the grief, whatever it might be, seeking and desiring no redress, without a word of sympathy from any one, she returned to her engagement at ——, leaving her reputation to take care of itself in the community in which so much of her life had been spent. For it was a community in which she had lived, not as a recluse, but in daily and hourly contact with other minds, and in which one unvarying course of delicacy and propriety, in all that related to her conduct towards the other sex, had given her *a right* to the confidence which she now tacitly claimed. And but for the representations proceeding from the source already indicated, *and the transactions which grew out of them,* that confidence would have been fully extended to her.

Under such circumstances, it was not possible that the work on which she was now entering as a teacher, should resume, all at once, its accustomed sway in her thoughts and feelings. The report of the engagement and the circumstances connected with it, had preceded her, which, with the delay attendant upon these circumstances, had disarranged very seriously the plans of her friends in relation to her class. But a course of original instruction, addressed to such an audience as that, which, in spite of these objections, soon surrounded her, numbering many of the most highly cultivated, and some of the most *gifted* of her countrywomen, left her but little leisure for her own personal sorrows. With such resources, she could endure in silence what had been laid upon her, little imagining, that in so doing, she was only gaining strength for the darker trials that were already unconsciously closing around her; trials which were soon to make the anguish of this "no more to be remembered;" and which were to rob her, eventually, of the resources that then sustained her.

Mr. A. had written to her once, immediately after their return from V., and there were circumstances that made it necessary to answer his letter. He had written to her again, and though nearly two months had since elapsed, she had not replied to this letter at the time of Professor R.'s communication to her, and it was evident that she did not intend to

answer it. There the matter had dropped, and there doubtless it had been dropped for ever, but for the circumstances already stated.

The effect of Professor R.'s communication had been to dispel her belief *in the sincerity of those professions of attachment* which Mr. A. had so publicly addressed to her. Its effect had been to convince her that her worst opinion of the man had done him no injustice, that he had most deliberately and atrociously trifled with her reputation and her welfare. And it was under these convictions that the previous letter already inserted had been addressed to him. But in his reply, the solemn asseveration of his innocence in relation to the charges proceeding from Mr. W., as we have seen, relieving her too confiding nature of all suspicion on that point, had left her at liberty to revert, at once, to her previous conclusion in relation to the circumstances preceding their separation. His rejection in that letter, both of "the *motives* she had attributed to him" in hers, and "the character she had portrayed," the tone of injured honor, the air of deep but suppressed emotion which pervaded it, which it seemed almost impossible to question; his confident appeal to her knowledge of his character as a sufficient vindication from such charges, the assurance that his last letter still contained the *true* expression of his feelings to her, the assurance that these feelings were

still what they always had been, as well as the allusion, at the close, to the impossibility of his expressing his feelings properly, when there was so *much* which he would say "which he was *forbidden* to say;"* all this, constrained her to believe again, what she had believed before, that there must be some inexplicable solution of his conduct, or something which *seemed*, one, at least, to himself.

But a man in whose heart any lingering sense of honor yet remained, must have felt that *some* of the expressions in her previous letter scarcely admitted of apology. In her note of reply to his disclaimer (the note now in the hands of Mr. A., and presented at the investigation), after a few words of apology and regret in relation to the matter which occasioned the letter, she continued, "*As to the rest, we talk to each other in unknown tongues.* I believe that deep *original* (constitutional?) differences of character, which the circumstances of our acquaintance have unfortunately developed, render it impossible for us to judge each other justly." With one whose ideas of honor and morality differed so radically and mysteriously from her own, she could, of course, now that she knew him, hold no acquaintance; but she would part from him in kindness, and think as well

* These expressions are all contained in the letter now in the hands of the writer.

of him as she could. Ah! when in magnanimous oblivion of the unspeakable evils which that acquaintance had brought to her, she had said to him at its close, and in view of all that had occurred in it, "*Let it be to you as if it had not been, or remember it only for the sake of the future,*" how could she have imagined that even that generous farewell, and the benediction with which, in God's name, she would have closed for ever so bitter a passage of her history, could have been *scanned and preserved to be used against her!*

Thus far it will be seen, then, that representations proceeding from Mr. W. have been the sole cause of "this disturbance." All that had taken place before, had taken place without any disturbance, or whatever there had been, had been confined to the parties themselves, and they had at length peacefully separated.

But it was impossible for such representations to be made concerning a lady of Miss D.'s character and position, in a place where she was known as at N., and on the authority, too, of a person who had sustained towards her such relations of confidence and intimacy as this gentleman had publicly sustained, without conducting to some such crisis as its inevitable result.

It was impossible for these representations to be communicated to the lady herself, and with her opinion

of the character of Mr. W., the person making them, (for though his name had not then been mentioned, the circumstances of the communication were such as to leave no doubt of his identity,) it was impossible for her to know that *he* was claiming to have read her letters to Mr. A., without producing the feeling and the determination which the following letter expresses. Especially will this appear, if we take into account the statement of Mr. A. already quoted. "She told me that she did not wish Mr. W. to visit her—she did not like him—had a low opinion of him." While the letter itself betrays the fact, that Mr. A., no less than herself, *was aware* of the personal hostility which Mr. W. and others alluded to in that connection, had manifested towards her.

At the suggestion of a confidential friend of Miss D.'s, to whom this letter was read, before sending it, an exact copy of it was retained and preserved, and it is here subjoined.

As before remarked, this letter on Miss D.'s part, closes the correspondence.

The last Letter to Mr. A.

"I could not have supposed that *any* emergency could arise which would make it possible for me to address you again. My brother has strictly and solemnly enjoined me never to write you another line, under any provocation whatever. But I feel

that I cannot intrust to him the message which I find myself constrained to communicate to you.

The object of this note is, to request you, once more, to restore my letters to me. Mr. W. declares that *he has read them.* Miss J. claims to be in possession of their contents. She gives *you* as her authority for the grossest misrepresentation of my relations to you, and refers to these letters as evidence for her assertions; assertions which, it seems, are too injurious to be repeated to me in detail.

The fact that "*the very existence of this correspondence*" is known to these persons, who, *as you are well aware,* have long distinguished themselves as my most inveterate enemies, is sufficient, after the statement in your last letter, to account to you for my often repeated request; for, of course, it renders that statement no longer of any value to me. I know the capacity for adaptation which characterizes your great theological principle: you may have esteemed it a pious act, to allay my anxiety, by concealing the truth from me. Be this as it may, nothing now will satisfy me that this correspondence is not still in existence.

You certainly cannot but be aware that the statements to which I have referred, and that the representations which are generally made here, with regard to my relations to you, are wholly and basely untrue. You certainly *know* that the only wrong

which can be charged upon me in this matter is that of permitting you to renew your strange attentions to me, after I had, for reasons most potent, again and again declined them. You know that my regard for you was one, which such devotion as yours could hardly fail to inspire, in a heart not wholly insensible to kindness. Need I remind you of that devotion? Is it in the power of language to express a sentiment deeper, stronger, or more exclusive than that which you have, again and again, in every variety of form and expression, professed for me? The whole vocabulary of poetic feeling has been exhausted to convey it to me; not in writing, indeed, for you have been quite careful not to commit yourself in this way.

As for me, I have taken no precautions against treachery. The letters which I have written you, taken apart from the circumstances which occasioned them, and which could be known wholly to ourselves alone, and taken without allowance for the scruples which forbade allusions to some things which I might have alluded to, might perhaps *in the hands of my enemies*, become dangerous weapons against me. Do you think, if I could have believed it possible that any eye but yours would ever read them, that I would not have been most careful to guard myself against the possibility of a misunder-

standing so dreadful to me? How you must have smiled at my simplicity! How you must have wondered, you and your friends, that years had brought me no more wisdom!

It was you who placed me in the position which made this correspondence necessary. The first line I wrote you was but a formal reply to your request for an introduction to me. I was asked by Mrs. F. to appoint an evening to see you, and *you know very well* why I answered it as I did. But even this may be used against me, and has been, I know already. But I would not have *made* or *tolerated* the acquaintance of any one against whom I esteemed it necessary to take precautions of this sort.

It was you who gave occasion for all the correspondence which has since ensued. For it had become an imperious necessity with me, as a woman of honor, to understand your behaviour to me. Those expressions of regard which you had dared to address to me, seemed to me, in the circumstances, dishonorable alike both to you and to myself. They needed to be explained. You have read my letters to your friends. Did you read them *all?* Were there no suppressed passages? Did you tell them of the circumstances which originated them? Did you tell them of those professions of impassioned sentiment, without which they would not have been written?

Did you tell them that I had distinctly *declined* the honor to which I am represented as having aspired?

I have trusted you without measure or scruple. I have put power into your hands to wrong me, and you have used it to the utmost. From the first, you have been in league with my most determined enemies against me! Ah! in what a net of malignity and cruel treachery have I been ensnared! Were they not the very last human beings, even if they had been friendly to me, on whom I would have bestowed such confidence? Henceforth I have nothing to fear from you. You have robbed yourself, now, of all your power to injure me. Those low-minded men have seen my letters, and I do not care now to whom you show them. Men whom I shrink from recognizing with a glance, whose very looks are odious to me, share the confidence which it would have pained me to share with my own dearest brother! What harm can you do me now?

But in this last step, in this completion of the sacrifice which you have found it convenient to make of me, it seems to me that you have, at last, overstepped the boundaries of that concealed prudence on which you pride yourself. Trust me, you have overlooked some elements in your calculation whose reality and whose divine right to be, you may yet be made aware of. That absence of human sympathies which shuts you out from all life but

your own, which leads you to regard your fellow-beings as mere "tools and instruments," has involved you in this error. Strong in the seeming helplessness of my position, you have defied me to the utmost. You have proceeded as if my reputation, my feelings, my welfare were things of no consequence whatever in the eyes of God or man. Representations, the most humiliating to me, the most degrading that were ever fastened upon a woman of any reputation, are referred to you as their author. Did you think you could extinguish a reputation like mine so quietly? Did you make no account in your cold calculation of what it was *safe* for you to do, of the sensitive, living, *human* nature you must needs tread in the dust? Did you make no account in it of God, and of the strength with which the weakest are armed of him for a struggle like this?

I have no wish to harm you. I would not avenge myself on you if I could, but the wrongs I am suffering at your hands are such that I *must* and *will* defend myself. They are more cruel than death to me. What the love of life would not have tempted me to do I am ready to do now. You smile at these intimations. You think that I have no power, and till now you were right in thinking so. You rely on those "adventitious advantages," without which you would never have dared to treat me as you have

done, to sustain you even in this. I think you have overrated them. You have made it necessary for me to make statements on this subject in my own defence. Hitherto the field has been your own, entirely. It is time that I did myself right in this matter. *Nothing shall persuade me to countenance this iniquity.* I would not, if it were practiced towards another, and I will not as it is. I shall tell the truth—the whole truth—the truth which you have suppressed, and there will be some to believe me. I know, indeed, what I shall have to contend with, but I have still some friends left, though they are fewer than they were when I first knew you. I had once some influence here, and weakened and wasted as it has been, such as it is, I will use it to the utmost.

Again I ask you to send me back my letters, not that I am afraid to have you keep them, for there can be no farther use made of them, now that I have your certificate that they are no longer in existence. When I came here I did not intend to remain but a single day. The idea of coming, even, was most disagreeable to me, but circumstances have occurred which alter my plans, and I have heard what makes me think it is better for me to be here. Certainly I will not go without authorizing my friends to contradict the false stories which have been circulated here in my absence.

I had no choice but to write this letter, or to send my brother to you with the message it contains. You may read it to as many of your acquaintances as you please. I do not wish for any answer. *There is* no answer to it, and *if there were* I would not read it. All I ask of you is *to send me my letters.* If you do not, I shall think it is because you do not choose to do so."

This letter was immediately answered by Mr. A., but the answer was returned to him unopened.

CHAPTER IX.

CAUSES OF NOTORIETY DEVELOPED.

Mr. A. was at this time boarding in the family of the Rev. Dr. N., one of the principal Theological Professors in the University of that city. Prof. P., the newly chosen Professor in the department of Ethics and Mental Philosophy, being the son-in-law of Dr. N., was at that time residing with his wife in the same family. This lady (Mrs. P.,) had already made some remarks to Mr. A., on the subject of his attentions to the lady with whom his name was then connected. She had twice spoken to him in regard to his reported engagement to her. She had also informed him that Miss D. was claiming that he had offered himself to her, and that this story was in circulation on her authority. In reply, he had flatly denied the truth of both these statements, and said "*he should be very sorry to have his friends think* that he could be such a *fool.*" Now it was to this lady that he immediately repaired, on receiving the letter above inserted, for aid and counsel. "He stated

that he was placed in very embarrassing circumstances and did not know how to act; that he had received a letter from Miss D., charging him with having shown her letters, that he had denied it in a letter, but had received another from her containing the same charges, and he asked Mrs. P.'s advice. Mrs. P. advised him to go and see the brother of the lady. He replied that he could not go to him." This conversation was a strictly confidential one. It occurred on Thursday evening.

On Saturday of the same week, Mrs. Dr. N., the mother of this lady, and wife of the Theological Professor in whose family *Mr. A.* boarded, came to visit Miss D. at the house of her brother, which was at that time her home. But in order that the difficulty which begins to be developed at this point should be fully understood, it should be stated that these two families that of the Rev. Dr.——, the lady's brother, and that of the Rev. Dr. N. the Theological Professor above named, had been for a period of more than twenty years, on terms of the closest intimacy and friendship, arising from the fact that the two clergymen had been successively occupants of the same pulpit in that city. Mutual kindnesses had been given and received. The eldest daughter of the brother had been named for Mrs. N. Three of the daughters of the other family had accepted, gratuitously, at different periods, Miss D.'s expensive courses of instruction

while on the other hand Mrs. N. had actively promoted the formation of Miss D.'s matron classes, and had been herself one of her most enthusiastic listeners.

It was natural for Miss D. to suppose that the disgraceful statements, which had been put in circulation by Mr. A.'s friends, for the avowed purpose of exonerating him in the affair, were at least known to the family with whom he resided, even if she had not been told, as she had, of an attempt on the part of Mrs. N. to justify *him* when the affair had been made a matter of question; and as *both* could not be justified, an unfavorable inference had been drawn in relation to Mrs. N.'s present position towards herself. These ladies had not met since the affair at V., at which time Mr. A. had been ten weeks absent from the family of Mrs. N., for the purpose of attending upon the lady to whom this visit was directed. That subject having been introduced, Miss D. spoke, in this connection, of the statements which Mr. A. and his friends were putting in circulation, in order to relieve him of the blame of that transaction. She spoke, also, of the claim which one of his friends was then making, of having read her private correspondence with Mr. A.

To her surprise, Mrs. N., at once, entirely disclaimed any knowledge of the proceedings referred to. On the contrary, she declared that Mr. A. had always spoken of her, to herself, in terms of the

highest respect and admiration. The fact that Mr. A. was at that time a member of this lady's family, and, as Miss D. supposed, a person who was regarded in it with unlimited esteem and confidence, and the impression already received that *she* too, like his other friends, was disposed to defend him at her expense, would naturally have induced some reserve on the part of Miss D., in relation to this subject. She could hardly have addressed this lady as a confidential friend, under these circumstances, without some assurance, to counteract such impressions. But she was distinctly assured by Mrs. N. that she was wholly mistaken in these impressions, so far as related to any committal on her part against her in the matter. She also assured her that she was equally mistaken as to the view taken of Mr. A.'s relation to herself and her husband. It was by no means a *confidential* one. On the contrary, he had always treated them with reserve in all that related to himself and his personal affairs, and she felt that she had no such knowledge of his character as would justify her in taking the ground which Miss D. had supposed her inclined to take in his favor. Indeed, there was nothing in her relations to him, which need prevent Miss D. from trusting her as a friend to herself in the matter.

But if Mr. A. had always spoken of her in terms of respect and kindness, the communication which

Miss D. would make in her own defence was uncalled for. On this point, however, it was at length conceded, that Mr. A. *had* made some statements, which rendered it quite proper that the communication should be made. He had been told recently that Miss D. was claiming that he had offered himself to her. He declared that that statement was wholly *false*, and without any foundation; "that there had never been any sentiment in the affair, not a thimbleful!"

This was the first time that this declaration on his part had been communicated to Miss D., though the disclosures recently made to her had, perhaps, indirectly implied all that was involved in it. That he had been guilty of the most outrageous violations of honor and faith in his conduct towards her, which the conditions of social life render possible, she knew already. That he had cruelly and wantonly exposed her confidence to the misrepresentation of those whom he knew to be inimical to her, she believed. But the distinct, direct avowal, that all those expressions of exclusive devotion, which he had so long and perseveringly addressed to her, were, in fact, without meaning, wholly false, mere insult,—this avowal, proceding directly from his lips, had now for the first time been repeated to her.

Had he said that? He had! To herself? He had! Then Mrs. N. should know the truth! For whether

there had been any sentiment or not, that there had been *professions* of it, the strongest that words can convey, proof was not wanting. She gave her a brief outline of the facts; brief it must have been, since it was comprised within the ordinary limits of a morning visit. Dr. N.'s peculiar relation to Mr. A. rendered it undesirable that this communication should be repeated to him. "He thinks highly of Mr. A." said Miss D., "and I do not wish to injure him in his estimation." But the matter was, at length, entirely entrusted to Mrs. N.'s discretion, and to her friendship. For the warmth which this lady had evinced in her behalf, during this interview, and the apparent entire absence of any bias in favor of Mr. A. had removed, for the time, all distrust, and had made her feel that it was entirely safe thus to trust in her.

Further consideration, however, induced her to call on Mrs. N., the day but one succeeding this, (on Monday) for the purpose of repeating the stipulation with regard to Dr. N., and also for the purpose of extending it expressly to Mrs. P., the daughter already named, as Mr. A.'s confidant and adviser in his present difficulties. Miss D. was very far from wishing to include Mrs. P. in her confidence, but Mrs. N. had understood her to say that she might communicate the matter to Mrs. P., and she had accordingly mentioned it to her, and through her it had *already* been

communicated to Mr. A. himself, as the following extract from Mrs. P.'s testimony shows.

"After my mother's first interview with Miss D. she came to me, Saturday evening, and gave me an account of it. She said distinctly she had not that confidence in Mr. A. she had before—did not see how Miss D.'s story could be reconciled with his being an honorable man. She made me promise to tell no one. The first opportunity I had to see Mr A., which was within twenty-four hours, I told him I thought he would regret not having taken my advice. *Told him that Miss D. was making statements highly injurious to his character;* that he must acknowledge that his *staying* at *V. was very much against him;* and that if he could vindicate his character at all, he had better do it, for that I had myself heard that which unsettled my confidence in him. He replied, he could *exonerate himself if he thought best.* I asked him why he did not do so."

Surely, why did he not? "Staying at V." *was* the thing so "very much against him." Making the most deliberate public demonstrations of exclusive interest and regard for a lady, and attracting the curiosity and attention of the world to her by these attentions, and then declaring that there was no sentiment in them, not a thimbleful: if he could *exonerate* himself from this charge, why did he not? Writing to her a full, explicit, most passionate dec-

laration of love, when he had no such sentiment for her, was another of these charges; betraying this lady's confidence to persons known to be her enemies, and permitting these persons to slander her in his name, was another. If he could exonerate himself in such a matter as this, truly, why did he not?

"He replied that he *could not do it without implicating the lady!*" I then asked him why he did not go to my father and talk the matter over with him. He replied that he could not do it, and should not, until absolutely compelled; that if my father and mother should hear these stories, and be prejudiced by them, he would tell them in confidence, but nothing more."

[The next morning, Mr. A. having heard accidentally of Miss D.'s call on the mother, and noticing afterward some coolness in her manner to him,] "he said to me, (Mrs. P.,) 'has Miss D. been talking to your mother about me?' He said he was very sure she had; he knew of her talking to other people in that way. He then made a remark, which I have tried in vain to recollect exactly: but the idea was that *Miss D. had expressed an interest in him,* which had placed him in embarrassing circumstances."

This indirect intimation was the *commencement* of that most remarkable accusation, which it appears the young man in these circumstances deemed an act of "self-defence," while he succeeded in leading

his subsequent defenders to the same view of the subject.

He then remarked to Mrs. P., that, if he should discover that her mother's feelings toward him were changed by Miss D.'s statements, he should communicate to her what would exonerate himself.

Mrs. P. thus continues: "That evening I told him, '*You had better* make a full and frank statement to my mother.' He replied, 'Do you give me this advice with a full understanding of the principles on which I have determined to act with regard to this disclosure?' I told him 'Yes.'"

But how did Mr. A.'s statement relieve the difficulty which existed in this lady's mind at the commencement of the conversation? Let us look at this point a little, for there is none more important than this in our narrative. "She had heard that which unsettled her confidence in him. He must acknowledge that his staying at V. was very much against him, and if he could say any thing to vindicate his character at all, he had better say it." "He could, if he thought best," and under the pressure of a demand so sustained, with the consciousness that there was no other escape from dishonor, he is at length induced to say it, notwithstanding that '*harm to the lady*' which he declared beforehand to be involved in it.

Setting aside, then, as perhaps not yet incontestibly substantiated, the betrayal of the lady's confidence,

and the countenancing of direct slanders against her, at the time when he was most publicly devoting himself to her service, how was it that the inevitable contradiction, existing between these peculiar and notorious demonstrations of exclusive attachment, on the one hand, and those indignant denunciations of the existence of any such attachment on the other, could be reconciled? How could the deep dishonor, the falsehood, the unspeakable cruelty involved in these, by his own showing, false professions, be explained or vindicated?

On the one hand, the denunciation of the sentiment which was professed in these attentions could not be denied, for that denunciation had been made directly to Mrs. P. herself, and on the other hand, the attentions themselves were just as incontrovertible. He could not deny that he had voluntarily accompanied the lady on her return to V., or that he had abandoned the original object of his journey and a specific engagement, in order to accompany her; for that object had been to visit Mrs. P. herself, then residing in a neighboring state, and the engagement broken was an engagement to preach for her husband.

He could not deny that he had voluntarily remained at V., or that he had voluntarily assumed the relation which he afterwards sustained to the lady there; for the circumstance of his return from V. to N. for

the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for protracting his sojourn indefinitely (passing twice through S., the place of Mrs. P.'s residence, without stopping to explain the change in his arrangements,) was proof that the step was not only voluntary, but most deliberate. And as to the circumstances connected with his residence there, they were so fully known that any attempt to controvert them would have been ridiculous.

This difficulty was then an inextricable one. The contradiction could not be reconciled. In the vindication which he now sets up, he does not attempt to reconcile it. He lets it alone. This vindication, such as it is, only heightens it. But that is of no consequence now. For, by a single master-stroke of policy, he has succeeded in diverting attention from *this* point. He has created a new issue.

The excessive folly which seems, at first sight, to characterize this vindication, conceals, in fact, the foresight of one deliberately predetermined on this mode of *defence*. It is the lady, who is now implicated: it is *she* who is now put upon the defensive, and that, too, by a charge which would seem, in the circumstances, too absurd for any one, not wholly idiotic, to venture upon.

What is this vindication? Let us look at it a moment, as it exists here in its first timid premonition, before encouragement and success have made it what

it afterwards became. "The lady had expressed an interest *in him!*" Of course she had. What else did she do when she permitted him to address to her the exclusive attentions which characterize, properly, one relation only; what else did she do when she appeared with him in public as her acknowledged suitor? when she accepted his arm in her daily walk, and permitted him to absorb all the leisure which the object of her residence at V. left at her disposal? What degree and kind of interest does any lady of delicacy and refinement express in a gentleman, when she permits him to address her in this way? And how could it be news to any person aware of these circumstances, to be told that she had expressed an interest in him? What kind of a vindication was this? This was the very circumstance which rendered the conduct in question so hopelessly and inextricably dishonorable. If the lady had *continued* to decline these declarations and professions, as it proved that she did decline them at one period of their acquaintance, the denial of an attachment on his part would have been entirely harmless, so far as *she* was concerned, and would only have served to involve his own soul in guilt and dishonor.

But "it was an interest *greater* than ladies usually express to gentlemen," as Mrs. P. explains further upon her cross-examination. How much interest *does* any lady express for a gentleman when she permits

him to address her in this way? How did Mr. A. know the exact degree of interest *usually* expressed in such circumstances? It was the opinion of persons who had the best opportunity of witnessing *his* expressions of devotion and regard *to her*, an opinion uttered at the time, that the interest expressed on his side, surpassed any thing of the kind they had ever before witnessed in *any* social relation;—so that if the above statement, instead of being a bare assertion, made for the express purpose of extricating himself from the embarrassment of this dilemma were in fact *proved*, it would only prove that the interest on her part had borne some proportion to the demands made upon it by him.

But this interest had placed him in *embarrassing* circumstances!" How could it, when it had been deliberately won by such assiduities, persisted in after having been repeatedly declined on the part of the lady, deliberately persisted in, too, in the face of express warnings on the part of her friends? What were these embarrassing circumstances? They have been already sufficiently exhibited. Who is it that attracts the curiosity of strangers, and the notice of children and servants, by the degree of interest expressed at the earliest stages of the acquaintance? Whose are the frequent and protracted visits that excite this remark? Is it the lady who leaves her seat at the table at the moment of his entrance

to breakfast by his side? That would have been, indeed, an embarrassing circumstance. Is it the lady whose presents are afterwards returned, whose notes are sent home unopened? That might have been embarrassing. Is it the gentleman who subsequently breaks off the acquaintance, and refuses, again and again, to see the lady, when urged to do so? No, it was the lady for whom such embarrassments were reserved. And when, accidentally encountering each other on their journey from N., on the occasion of Miss D.'s return to the watering place in V., is it the lady who abandons *her* pre-arranged destination, to remain with him at S., or is it *he* who abandons a specific engagement at that place, and with it the object of his journey, to accompany her to V? And subsequently, which of the two do we find relinquishing all previous engagements and arrangements, for months, for the sole purpose of attending exclusively upon the leisure of the other? What kind of an embarrassment led to this? Could any rational free agent, in possession of the ordinary faculties of human nature, have been *compelled*, by any thing short of magic and "metaphysical aid," to such a course?

Was this man a *fool*, then, that he should attempt to set up such a vindication, in the face of such evidence, or did he suppose that the persons to whom it was addressed were persons so wanting in faculty as not to perceive the unfitness of it? Let the

policy of this course be judged of by its results. He had determined on a course of defence which would enable him to *set these facts at defiance.* He had determined on an appeal to certain principles in human nature, naturally independent of the control of facts and reason. The inquiry which the disclosures just made to the lady and her friends, was likely to set on foot, was one which it was his business at all hazards to divert or prevent. And since peaceful methods had failed to accomplish this, other and more violent ones must now be resorted to. If he could not *meet* the inquiry, he could at least forestall it. The lady being put upon the defensive by a charge from which, as a lady, she could least defend herself, might be glad to *compromise* the matter with him at once. The charges brought against her, once put into circulation, no matter how baseless, would more than counterbalance in their effect upon her, as a lady, any statements which she might make involving him, no matter how sustained.

He knew, (who does not know?) that to *assail* the reputation of a lady on such a subject, is to wound and sully it; who does not know that for such a purpose *assertion* is all that is needed, falsehood is *as* effectual as truth? Those social laws, which on account of this very helplessness are made so stringent, for the protection of womanly honor, once broken,—as in this desperate emergency he might find a plea

for breaking them, and he had little more to fear. He had seen the shadow which the coarse hints and aspersions of his associates had already so easily thrown upon a name hitherto so highly honored, and he was now determined to follow up the impression thus made to her disadvantage; that is, if she should persist in driving him to a course so desperate. But surely, as a woman, and a woman hitherto esteemed fastidiously delicate, she must needs quail before the certainty of such an assault, and even *consent* to the aspersions already cast upon her, rather than encounter it.

The wisdom of this proceeding was already beginning to be manifest. What could be more gratifying than the result of this first cautious experiment? Relieved, at once, of all suspicion,—apparently restored to perfect confidence by merely *naming* this implication,—it was the lady to whom it had been uttered, who now advised and insisted upon his proceeding in it. If a *lady* could so readily receive, *without proof*, what was designed as a charge of indelicacy against one of her own sex, against one, too, whose previous character and history rendered this charge so improbable, and one whose relations towards other members of her family might well claim from *her* some gratitude and kindness, surely he might venture on the next step more boldly. Indeed, the responsibility no longer rested upon him. It was the lady who was his adviser and counseller, who had

now assumed it. Accordingly, on the afternoon of the ensuing day (on Tuesday,) he requests an interview with Mrs. N., the mother of Mrs. D.

He might be pardoned for some hesitation and reluctance in this case. For it was the confidential friend of the lady assailed, one who had given that highest possible proof of confidence in her delicacy and propriety of character already adverted to, that of entrusting to her immediate influence the minds and characters of her own daughters;—it was with one sustaining such relations to her, that he must now proceed to unfold the slanderous charges, which were his only vindication.

Here, again, the power of this new principle of self-defence becomes apparent. Set forth without so much as a shadow of proof, resting on the bare assertion of one already so deeply implicated, and now far more dishonorably implicated by the very statements set forth in his *defence;* contradicted, too, as they were, by all the evidence in the case already presented, and especially by the character and history of the lady herself, these charges seem suddenly to have overcome, in the mind of this friend, all previous impressions, and every thing that could tend to impair their credibility.

It is not the intention of the writer to turn the blame upon Mrs. N. in this. But the fact stated, only shows the power of this new principle of self-de-

fence, and the need of this inquiry concerning it. If a woman's reputation, however fair, is indeed so frail a thing as this, it only shows why those social laws, which guard it from aspersion, are so rigid as they are, and why it is esteemed so cowardly an act to assail it. And if reputation, whether of man or woman, is so frail a thing, that charges *without proof* can thus deeply injure it, no wonder that derogatory charges without proof should be defined to be slander, and no wonder that slander should rank as it does in the estimates of social crime.

The effect produced upon the mind of Mrs. N. by these statements is soon evident. She says, in her testimony, " The next day (on Tuesday) he requested an interview. He said, as I had seen Miss D. he was convinced that she had said to me what she had said to others about the offer of himself to her. As to the offer, it was of no consequence, but it was quite another thing to have his character assailed. As Miss D. had told me to make what use I *pleased* of her communication, I did not feel bound to conceal it from him, and I told him some few things. He said he should wish me to regard what he communicated, as said in *vindication of himself*, because she had accused him of speaking falsely, and of dishonorable conduct. He wished me to understand that he spoke in strict confidence. *No other person* had been made acquainted with the facts. He wished

to make a statement for *two* reasons. One, that he did not feel willing to suffer in the estimation of friends with whom he had found such a home. The second, that he *wanted counsel.* He wished, if at any time I judged it necessary for him to speak in his own defence, I would say so."

What particular "facts" there were, which had not yet been communicated to *any one,* the interview with Mrs. P. having occurred the evening before, does not appear in the minutes from which this is quoted.

Having consented to act the part proposed to her, Mrs. N. was now placed in a most painful and embarrassing position. Already committed, on the one hand, as the sympathising and trusted friend of the lady whose reputation was thus assailed and threatened, she was now, on the other hand, equally committed as the confidential friend and adviser of the man who was about to vindicate himself by destroying that reputation, so far as it was in his power to do so; nay, she was pledged to give him warning of the moment at which, in her opinion, it should become necessary for him to proceed with this vindication.

As to the man to whom this pledge was made, thus doubly sustained with the influence of both these ladies, now entirely enlisted in aid of his proposed defence, might he not hope that the gentlemen of the

family, the husbands of these ladies, might be induced to countenance it also? This point once gained,—these two professors, one the principal *theological* professor, and the other the representative of the new department of *Ethics* and *Mental Philosophy* in the University of that city, once committed to sustain him in this step, and the rest would be easy.

The conversation just described occurred, as Mrs. N. states, "early in the afternoon," and a very timely conversation it proved, for before the afternoon was over, Mr. A. was advised by Mrs. N. that the crisis of which she was requested to inform him, had in her opinion already arrived. But the occasion for this announcement cannot be understood without a reference to another conversation, coincident in time with the one alluded to.

It happened that just at this juncture, Mrs. S., the sister of the writer, and the early friend and schoolmate of the lady whose history is so painfully involved in this matter, being now on her return from V. to her distant home in the West, had stopped in N. for two or three days, and by this means it happened, that what had hitherto been wanting to complete the disclosures already made to the lady, concerning the course pursued by Mr. A., was now supplied.

In the course of a conversation which occurred between these ladies on the afternoon referred to, in relation to what had transpired at V. Miss D.

learned that the same impression had been made there, through the representations of Mr. C., the clergyman, at the very time when she was accepting from Mr. A. all those attentions which distinguish the intercourse of engaged persons. It was stated that Mr. C. had publicly denounced the idea of an engagement, or of any sentiment on the part of the gentleman which could lead to one, giving Mr. A. as his authority for so doing; and when the deep dishonor of the course pursued by his friend, in that case, was pointed out to him, it was stated, by way of exonerating him, "that she had first sought his acquaintance as a stranger, by inviting him to visit her at a hotel," with the implication that when a lady puts herself in such a position, the gentleman was at liberty to pay even *such* attentions, as those which were paid in this instance, without being responsible for the consequences. Mrs. S. mentioned, also, some other circumstances, which, in connection with this, had led her to say to her sister at the time, "I do not like this—I fear he is playing a double game."

"And how could *you* hear these things without telling me of them?" was Miss D.'s inevitable inquiry. "Because, to tell you the truth, that matter of the *note of introduction* was detailed to me in such a way as to make a very painful impression on my mind, and as to the rest, I soon became convinced, from my own observation, that whatever he might say

to Mr. C., *he was really engaged and most devotedly "attached to you."* "Did you ever hear of any thing, did you ever *read* of any thing like this?" was Miss D.'s inquiry of her friend, as they compared the facts. And the answer was, No. They did not know then that these developments were only begun.

Miss D. wished her brother to hear these statements from Mrs. S. herself. She wished Mrs. N. to hear them also, that she might judge for herself, as to the grounds on which the matter rested. But Mrs. S. had visited at Dr. N.'s the evening before; she was already engaged for this evening, and was to leave town the next morning. If Mrs. N. would call upon her at the placed named, she would converse with her upon the subject, and state to her what had just been disclosed to Miss D. Her brother came in, during this conversation, and at Miss D.'s request, these statements were repeated to him. The just indignation which any honorable and high minded man would feel, in listening to such disclosures as these, and on such testimony, heightened, too, as it was in this instance, by the feeling of a brother for a sister so deeply wronged, surely needs no description and no apology.

As Mrs. N. was already in his sister's confidence, on hearing these disclosures, the brother went immediately to her house, for the purpose of communicating with her upon the subject; mentioning to her,

that she herself could see Mrs. S., and satisfy herself of the facts in person, if she should choose to do so, that evening. He addressed her, in this interview, as the confidential friend of his sister. Neither his sister or himself were aware that any change had occurred in her relations to Mrs. N. since their last very recent interview. The brother could not, of course, suspect that by a base implication of his sister's character, tending in no way to relieve the dishonor which was already fixed upon *him*, the person whose conduct he now denounced to Mrs. N. as the basest villany, was already pre-exonerated in her eyes from any blame. Least of all could he suppose that any arrangement existed between herself and this person, which would render it necessary for her to communicate to *him* the particulars of the present conversation as the plea and excuse for developing still further the retaliatory vindication in question.

Immediately after the brother's return from this visit, which was very brief, Mrs. P. called at his door for a moment, to say that her mother found herself too much indisposed to come over that evening, but if he pleased, she (Mrs. P.) would herself see Mrs. S. on the subject referred to. As Mrs. P. had never been on any terms of particular confidence with his sister, and as there had been no intention of extending the matter so far, it was thought best to decline this offer.

Meanwhile, Mrs. N. hastened to communicate to

the young gentleman himself, the particulars of what had just transpired, with the assurance that in her opinion "the crisis" had already arrived!

To consult with Dr. N., and to secure his aid and counsel, was of course the first step which this crisis demanded. No wonder, then, that this young gentleman should have felt it necessary to fortify himself beforehand with such influences, in approaching his theological instructor on this subject;—no wonder that he needed the support of Mrs. N.'s personal presence and assistance, in opening the matter to him. For, after all, *this* was the grand experiment.

It was *this* which was to determine whether the principles of this new mode of self-defence, and the only means within his reach of averting an inquiry so fatal to his honor, were to be exposed in the very outset, to the contempt they merited, or whether they were to go forth from this point to the world, not unquestioned merely, but accredited, sanctioned, sealed with the highest authority, as the principles which were to govern men of honor and Christians in such emergencies. To have imposed this defence upon two ladies, who usually are accustomed to look at things in the concrete, and through the medium of feeling chiefly, was, after all, for a logician like Mr. A., no great triumph. But it was to a *man*, that this exposure was now to be made, and to one, moreover, whose business it had been to dis-

cover the principles of things, and the bearing of principles upon results. It was to the searching analysis of a keen logician and metaphysician, that this defence was now to be submitted. Would not its true principles be at once detected through that plea of necessity and those plausible pretensions to honor and generosity with which he had sought to invest it? Might he not seem to hear beforehand some such reply as this?—

"Your pretended vindication *is no vindication at all!* It evades the question! It does not touch the position on which you are assailed; or if it does, it is only to strengthen the charge by your own admission! You are worse with it, than you are without it!'

"Sir, you have asked my advice. I advise you not to tell such a story as this of yourself in any circumstances. Above all, I recommend to you never to tell, to the day of your death, such a story as this of any lady. Any man who has a wife, or a sister, or a daughter, will tell you that it is an incredible one. And whatever the facts may be, a story like this can only expose you to ridicule and contempt. For such a confidence as that which, you say, has been reposed in you in this instance, is the very last one in the world, which a man of honor would feel himself at liberty to betray, on any pretext. And do you call this *self* vindication? What are you charged with? You are charged, as I understand, on specific evi-

dence, with a deliberate course of deceit and treachery, in a case in which deceit and treachery are most to be reprehended. You are charged with making representations concerning this lady, of the same *sort* with those which you have just made to me, while your professions and whole conduct to the lady herself, were most notoriously giving the lie to these representations. Now, if this charge is false, if up to this time you have not made, or authorized the representations in question, as you claim now that you have not, say so. It is your only defence. The attentions which contradict these representations, not admitting of denial, you can do nothing else. And, indeed, the lady's statement, that these attentions were accompanied with honorable proposals, and that an engagement existed at the time when you were most publicly devoted to her, *itself* relieves you from the shame which *your own* story would certainly bring upon you, and leaves nothing for you to do but to deny the representations in question. The persons being specified, who are said to have given you as their authority on such statements, you can even disprove the charge against you. But you are not required to do that."

"But if by calling this story that you have just told me, a *vindication of yourself*, you mean, that by putting such a story into circulation, against the lady, you would succeed in diverting inquiry from the

question now at issue, by presenting to the disseminators of gossip and scandal, something far more to their taste than the statements against you;—if you mean that, by assailing the lady on such ground as this, when, *from the nature of the charge*, she is least capable of defending herself, you put her in a position which weakens the effect of her statements on this subject, and that in *this* way the story *will operate* for your defence, this is a point which I will not contest with you.

"But what kind of a defence is this? What kind of a position is this for a man of honor to assume? The story is, in itself, a most absurd and incredible one. It is contradicted, not only by the character of the lady, but by all the facts in the case hitherto brought in evidence. What proofs have you, then, which are sufficient in your eyes, to outweigh these probabilities? *None!* Where are the letters you speak of? Destroyed! Why destroyed?

"And is it your purpose, then, to put in circulation against a lady, a story like this, *without proof*, merely because it is for your interest to injure her? Do you know what name would be given to this proceeding? And do you ask *me* to countenance it? Would you have me assail in your defence, the very laws on which, if you are unjustly charged, you must *yourself* depend for protection? Sir, for me to bring to the support of the principles involved in this proceeding,

the influence which belongs to my character and official position, would be for me to let loose in this community, and not in this only, but all over the land, the flood-gates of social disorder;—it would be to produce a state of things such as has never yet existed since society was first founded here! I could not do this without assailing the principles which protect my own name from dishonor, and that of my wife and daughters. I could not do it without publicly assailing the principles which protect the peace and honor of every household. No! If you have acted an unworthy part in this matter, the best advice *I* can give you, is, to stop where you are. All the influence in the world would not help you in this case. It would only serve to make it worse for you in the end. *Retraction* and *acknowledgment* is the only safe method of hushing up wrong. If you are unjustly charged, meet the charge on its *own* ground, like an honest man, but do not attempt to prove that you are *not* a villain, by acting the part of one."

If Mr. A. expected to hear any thing of this sort from his reverend instructor, he must have been greatly disappointed, as the following extract from Dr. N.'s testimony sufficiently shows.

"One evening, (Tuesday) after tea, Mrs. N., Mr. A. and myself were together. Mrs. N. told me that Mr. A. felt himself to be suffering, &c., and she had referred him to me for advice. He then introduced

the subject, and gave me to understand that he was going to make a confidential communication." This communication was subsequently summed up in a letter from Dr. N., in the following form.

"Mr. A. told me, that in his acquaintance with Miss D., the sentiment had not been *on his side;* that *he had made no declaration of affection,* or of anything beyond the feeling and interest of friendship; that she had again and again declared her affection for him, with at least *one* proposal of marriage; [the number stated afterward of such proposals was no less than *five,*] and that he had uniformly replied that the thing was not to be thought of; that from a regard to her reputation he had never mentioned the facts in the case, until she had, in his view, rendered it necessary by what she said; *that he had been very much embarrassed, and was troubled to know what to do;* that to break off *all* intercourse with her would involve some evils of which he did not wish to be the occasion; that he resolved at a certain time to avoid every thing that should appear like intimacy or particular attentions, and that when he had done so, he found himself, *without designing it,* and *contrary to his wishes,* obliged to show her attentions *or be grossly uncivil!* He said to me, that he had frequently thought of disclosing the matter to me, and asking my advice on the subject, but a regard for

her, *as her character would be affected*, had prevented his doing so."

The manner in which this disclosure was met, is set forth by the gentleman who received it, in what follows. "After Mr. A. had made this statement, I said, 'It is a pity that this should be a matter of public gossip! Her brother is a man of sense, suppose you should go to him and make substantially the same statement!' At first, Mr. A. assented and seemed willing to go, then said that the brother would probably treat him with some severity, would probably turn him out of doors, and so he declined. I said, suppose *I* should go. We concluded it was the best thing to be done. I went with the purpose of communicating *what Mr. A. had to say in his own defence, that the thing might be stopped!* The brother was out; I inquired for Miss D., told her I had come as a friend to make a proposition from Mr. A. to her."

Miss D. was glad to see him, and welcomed him as a friend. She referred to what she had heard that afternoon from Mrs S., and thanked him for coming to speak with her. But "he had not come to hear her story." He had just heard from Mr. A. the story which he was prepared to circulate in his own defence, and he had come to advise her, as a friend, to *hush up the matter*. "But how can you advise me in such a case, without knowing the facts?" He stated that they were not "necessary to *the purpose*

of his visit." As to Mr. A.'s story, "he disclaimed having formed any opinion as to whether it were true or false." "He did not even *suspect* it to be true." The advice he gave was independent of that question. Allowing it to be false, its circulation would be deeply injurious to her, as a lady, and it was still in her power to prevent it. The persons to whom it had been communicated would agree never to speak of it, *if she would consent to supress the statements on her side!* And he urged and entreated her to this step, as the only one which could save her from irretrievable evils. In the course of the conversation, the story of Mr. A., as just inserted, was communicated to her as the one which *he was prepared to put in circulation, if she should refuse his proposition!* Need it be said that the lady *refused* that proposition, that she refused it with an indignation which words could not utter, as she would refuse it doubtless, at this moment, if the past could be recalled, and the future put into her hands again? Need it be said that the brother also refused this proposition in the sister's behalf? Dr. N. describes the lady as exceedingly agitated with his communication. "She could not talk—wept—her language concerning Mr. A. was very strong," &c.

After a long conversation he went to the study, met the brother, and describes him as "strongly excited." "I went into some little argument for the

purpose of persuading him that my counsel was wise. I remember, in going home, this reflection arose, that *his mind was in such an attitude that what I had said produced no effect!*"

The proposal made by Dr. N. to Miss D. was repeated in the course of a day or two, by Mrs. N. in person; who called "to assure Miss D. that she felt as kindly towards her as ever, and that she hoped she had not misconceived her husband's motives." Miss D. stated frankly, that she did not understand how any gentleman could be the bearer of such a proposition as that which Dr. N. had brought to her. Mrs. N. testified that Miss D. was very much excited on this occasion. "I said to her,—Do be calm—do be candid—Mr. A. has made no attack upon you except in his statement to my husband and to me, which was strictly confidential, *and which shall die with us, if you can compromise the matter with him!*" Mrs. N. seems to have forgotten that the story had been told to at least one other person, i. e., her daughter Mrs. P

Meanwhile Miss J., the young lady in Professor F.'s family, finding herself compelled to give her authority for the representations quoted from Mr. W., had written to him (Mr. W. being then in another city,) for the purpose of being assured that she had not done wrong in stating, as she had to Professor R., that he had read "affectionate letters" from Miss D.

The following is an extract from Mr. W.'s answer to this inquiry, written, as he states, "for the purpose of *reassuring* Miss J." on that point.

"I affirm that I have beheld, or heard read, sundry notes of Miss D. to Mr. A., but never having apprehended *any row concerning them*, I kept no minutes of their dates. Mr. A. did not *display* these notes. We were so much together that I could not avoid seeing some. The first, an invitation to Mr. A. to *meet* Miss D. at her apartments in the —— Hotel, was handed to him at my room, in presence of two other gentlemen besides myself. *And of billet-doux*—one *particularly*, I recollect, (which I accidentally knew of his receiving, and asked to see,) was refused me. Mr. A. is an honorable man, and would studiously avoid saying or doing any thing which might possibly result to the injury of a female. He is also my particular friend, and would not *unnecessarily* conceal from me the contents of a note which I had expressed the slightest curiosity about. With the knowledge of these two facts, I naturally surmised that the contents might be *peculiar*."

Put in connection with the following statement from Mr. A.'s letter, the above might seem, to the most unprejudiced person, to amount to something like proof, not only of falsehood, but "of falsehood and dishonorable conduct" on the part of the one or the other of these gentlemen.

"I would state *most explicitly*, that whoever may *pretend* to share my confidence on the subject referred to, that confidence has been shared by *none*. The correspondence to which you allude has been *destroyed*, and *the knowledge of its very existence* has been, and ever shall be, so far at least as I am concerned, confined to the correspondents."

Mr. W., afterwards, attempted to explain this seeming contradiction, by saying, that at the time this note to Miss J. was written, he was quite "*in the dark*," as to the nature of "the disturbance." He understood that Mr. A. was charged with falsehood, and that the statement he had made to Miss J. was the occasion of the charge. He naturally supposed, therefore, that proof of the existence of notes or letters *of the sort described*; (that is, "*billet-doux*,") was what was needed to clear Mr. A. from that charge, in short; that it was necessary to *substantiate* what he had already stated, and therefore, purposely worded his note in such a way as to produce the impression that he had seen, or heard read, *such* notes or letters as in the passage, "and of *billet-doux*, one *particularly* I remember." He says, in apoligizing for this letter afterwards, "*Had I known the point on which Mr. A. was accused of falsehood*, I should have explained fully the nature of the notes to which I referred," and he *then* declares *that he has never read, or heard read*, any communications from Miss D. to Mr. A., excepting "notes of ceremony!"

Meanwhile, the lady, in that most unparalleled and extraordinary position in which she had been placed by *such* a proposal, brought to her by such a man as Dr. N., instead of compromising the matter with Mr. A., had sought, with her brother's advice, the aid and counsel of friends whose relations to her, at that time, seemed to justify the confidence reposed in them. To refuse that proposal,—to refuse it with the indignation it merited, and to communicate to these nearest friends the particulars of the strange position in which it had placed her, these were the only steps taken by the lady herself, toward producing the still more extraordinary state of things which immediately followed it.

It is thus clearly established that the publication of Mr. A.'s scandalous story, and the position assumed in relation to it by men occupying the highest places of public trust, were in the view of the writer, the *sole* causes of the publicity of this affair. The proposal made to the lady and her brother was simply that she should lend her aid to a plot for destroying her own character, by *concealing the truth* necessary for her justification, *even from her nearest friends*. And yet because she refused so to do, the whole blame of the publicity of the matter has been fastened upon her.

A day or two succeeding that of Dr. N.'s visit, a detailed account of the proposition brought to them

by Dr. N., as understood both by the brother and sister, was sent back to him, with a request on the part of the brother, that whatever inaccuracies it contained, should be corrected. In answer to this, a letter was returned by Dr. N., summing up the statement made to him by Mr. A., in words already quoted.

The following communication, addressed by the lady herself to Dr. N. upon the receipt of this, will show her view of the case at that time.

"Rev. Sir,

"All that was of any importance in my brother's communication has been repeated in yours, and even more emphatically than in the statement sent to you. The design of that statement was, not to represent your conversation with me that evening unfavorably to yourself, or to impeach the *motives* of your visit. I believe that they were what you state them to have been, and that your only object in it was to avert, if possible, a great evil;—one that seemed to you, in any case, whatever might be the truth, to threaten alike both your friend and myself. Though if you knew, as you say in your reply you did know, that Mr. A. had already made to *a number of his friends and acquaintances* the same communication, essentially, which he had made to yourself that evening, I cannot well perceive how you could have hoped to accomplish your object.

As to the motives of the man who allowed you to

come to me with what *he* knew *I* knew to be the basest falsehood that was ever uttered, of course, I have another theory.

But, sir, with regard to yourself, whatever *your motives* may have been, it does seem to me, if I may be allowed to say it, that you did not appreciate, as you should have done, the position in which you placed me. The charge which you brought to me—the charge to which I was compelled to listen that evening,—not from the lips of a madman, but from one whom I had reverenced and esteemed, and one, too, by whom I had supposed I was myself known and honored;—that charge, involving the most atrocious calumny to which any woman, not wholly lost to all that is decent and womanly, was ever, I presume, expected to listen, you certainly did not wish me to hear without emotion. Forgive me for saying it, but it does seem to me, that any one who did not *know beforehand*, that *such* a charge was not, and could not be true, any one who was not prepared to avow an utter, absolute disbelief of it, was not one, whoever he might be, to bring it to me under the protection of my brother's roof.

The circle of my friends and acquaintances, among whom that charge needs only to be stated to prove its baseness, is, I believe, wide. And this was the reason why I wished to preserve it exactly as it was made to me that evening.

There are those, perhaps, who, to gratify some feelings they would be ashamed to avow, may pretend to believe it, but *it will be pretence only.* And certainly I must be permitted to say, I cannot think very highly of the dignity or delicacy of any *woman,* who is quite ready to believe, or even not quite ready to disbelieve, such stories of another, and especially of one concerning whom she knows no evil.

Your opinion that *any* public discussion of such charges as those, which Mr. A. has brought against me, is for me, as a lady, most undesirable; and that, as a lady, I must suffer more than my antagonist *can,* in such a matter, I did not, and do not, feel disposed to question. It is a fact of which, unfortunately, no lady, in such a position as that in which I am placed, needs to be reminded.

But the disgraceful imputations under which I have been, for more than two years, unconsciously suffering, and concerning which, until within the last few weeks, I have never received an intimation, have already been spread far and wide. Every one who has heard my name associated with Mr. A., by any intimation or report from the circle of his friends, has heard it, I believe, in this connection.

The publicity of the *exposure* of these falsehoods is the only kind of publicity which my friends have now to fear for me, and it would be a strange sort of

delicacy in them to shrink from that. My acquaintances at V. were told, on Mr. A.'s authority, and by way of apology for his relations to me, that appeared so unaccountable when the engagement was denied, that I *had invited him to meet me at a hotel, and had thus sought an introduction to him.* And this was the justification offered for the conduct in question. And this was the imputation under which I was suffering during the whole time of my stay at V., which those who witnessed his attentions to me were taught to believe on his authority. And on Saturday I read a letter from Mr. A.'s most intimate friend, one who, it seems, is deeper than yourself in his confidence, for he has "beheld, or heard read," as he affirms, "sundry notes" of mine, including what he is pleased to term "billet-doux," from which I learn that Mr. A. has permitted his associates to believe that I sought his acquaintance. I must confess, when I read that vulgar letter, and saw the proofs of an intimacy which, as the writer declares, was such, that this correspondence could not have been concealed from him, I acknowledged in my heart, that I had *deserved* all that I have suffered, for admitting to my acquaintance on any terms, the companion and friend of such a man.

No! I shall not shrink from this investigation! The threat with which I am charged to suppress this matter, the *nature* of the "compromise" pro-

posed to me by Mr. A., and urged upon me by yourself and Mrs. N., certainly make it impossible for me now to shrink from it.] In these circumstances, my position, my character, my relations to society, require me not to do so! To me, in my position, this story is what a charge of stealing, or lying, or drunkenness, thus sustained, would be to you in yours. Nay, it is more than this. And I say to you, and to all whom the permission concerns—if this story be indeed true,—do not suppress it! If, having assumed in this community, a position which has made me the teacher and guide of others—giving myself up, professedly, to aims and pursuits so exclusive of the ambition which this calumny attributes to me—if, after having imposed upon my acquaintances a reputation for "fastidiousness," which even Mr. W. was constrained to respect, when his friend first sought an introduction to me—if, notwithstanding all this, I say, I am what these charges represent me to be—do not conceal it! Publish it, rather. Let it be known, for the sake of the community I have insulted with my pretensions, and for the sake of the evil I may yet perpetrate in the wider plans of usefulness on which I am now entering.

The man who brings this charge against me, knows, as he knows his own existence, that I have again and again declined his strange attentions to me, on the ground of these peculiar circumstances in

my position. I told him how free my name had hitherto been from any association of this sort, and how especially injurious to me, in these circumstances, any such absurd association must be as that which such attentions as his could not but fasten upon me. I explained to him how the solitary and unhappy circumstances in which he had sought my acquaintance, and the manner in which he had himself urged these circumstances upon my sympathies, had conspired with another consideration, to embarrass my judgment for a while, and had led me to permit these attentions, until they had assumed a character which made it impossible for me to receive them any longer; and that the influence, which I was thus impairing, was something for which I held myself responsible to God, and something with which I had no right to trifle, if I would.

But this was not the only ground on which I declined these attentions. For the expressions of regard with which they were accompanied, had placed me in a position towards himself which rendered this step necessary. Certainly I was most careful, as any lady would be, in such circumstances, to avoid the slightest chance of being misunderstood, and *the absolute impossibility* of the connection which he now represents me as having sought, was assumed as the sole basis of this communication. The least idea of being misapprehended on such a point would have

been most distressing to me. But of course there could be no room for such a misgiving, when, in reply to the most *unequivocal* language on his part, I replied as unequivocally, that the only relation which would render such attentions and professions proper, was, in the circumstances, impossible.

But all this was during the first year of our acquaintance. While we were together at V., my views and relations were changed;—I need not, however, repeat what I have already said on that subject.

But, sir, painful as are the circumstances in which I now find myself, I cannot regret that the crisis of an evil which has so long overshadowed my life, which has assailed all that is most valuable to me in it, has at last arrived,—even though it be a crisis like this. I am glad that these charges, no longer floating about in undefined rumors, surrounding me with a cloud of infamy, in which for two years I have walked so unconsciously, no longer creeping in dark hints and intimations for which no one was responsible, have at last taken tangible form; and that I have, in your own handwriting, a statement of them, from which there is no longer any chance of retreat or denial.

The secret history of these two years, that strange, and to me, incomprehensible history, I thought to have carried with me to my grave in silence. But God, who hates treachery, and who is on the side of the wronged, has taken it from my keeping.

And yet, sir, there are moments, I will confess to you, when another and a different view of this subject occurs to me. When I think, or try to think, of what Mr. A. told you the evening I saw you, and when I seek to connect it with all that I have known of him during the long period of our acquaintance, when I remember the innumerable declarations of an affection which "language could not utter," which "death could not change;" when I recall the impassioned tones, the innumerable proofs of sincerity which forced me, at last, to believe him, in spite of all that had made me so long incredulous,—the daily, hourly devotion of months, the unchanging devotion of years,—and when I seek to connect this, *rationally*, with those strange incongruities and contradictions which, now and then, startled and amazed me; and when to this I try to add all that I now learn, from so many sources, of his unspeakable treachery, *I know not what to think!* My imagination refuses to frame a conception of the wickedness which is forced upon it. I can form no idea of a *will* so depraved; I seek for the meaning of all this elsewhere, and a suspicion flashes on me which I shall not utter, yet would to God it were true! That which he charges upon me is something, the possibility of which I cannot conceive of. There is no lady of *my* acquaintance, against whom such a charge would seem credible. Nay, I do not think there *is* any such woman!

Sir, I have something more to say concerning my relations to yourself and to your family. I can permit no friends of mine to tell me that they are *waiting for evidence* on *such* charges as those which Mr. A. has brought against me. If you were charged with some crime which should be, to you, in your position as a man, what this is, to me, in mine as a woman, and your friends should tell you that they were 'waiting for evidence' on the subject, and that it was 'a mere question of veracity between you and your accuser,' you would think of your *friends* precisely what I think of those who take this ground with me.

When the question is, whether I have bestowed my regard on any gentleman unsought—no, *not* this, but whether I have sought and followed with professions of attachment, perseveringly followed, after having been again and again repulsed, one who never declared any affection for me; nay, more, when the charge is that I have made *proposals of marriage,—five times,* as the later version has it,—and have each time been told that 'the thing was not to be thought of;' when the person who brings this charge to me—who utters it with his lips, and writes it down for me to read,—coolly tells me that my word is worth no more in such a matter than that of my accuser, and that he cannot decide about it until some certain amount of evidence, clearly arranged and logically set forth, shall be brought on my part to *disprove* it,

I say, *be he who he may*, my self-respect must render the terms of any future acquaintance with him quite unintelligible to me.

Yet do not misunderstand me. As to the story *in itself*, it seems to me too absurd, too gross, too far beyond the range of any credence to deserve, on its own account, any notice. Towards its author, a feeling of speculative curiosity seems, for the present, to have taken the place of every other sentiment; for he appears to me to have gone beyond the reach of indignation, or contempt, or any feeling of that kind. If I were to meet him, I believe I should look at him curiously—as I would have looked at ——, or as I would look at any other such occasional specimen of the latent, extreme possibilities incident to our free humanity. But when I meet that charge reflected in the shape of a doubt in the mind of those who hear it, the emotion it awakens in me is of another and of quite a different character. 'Language,' as my veracious admirer has often told me, 'is powerful for the utterance of anger, or for any other sentiment,' but that which he sought in vain to express to me. Notwithstanding the volubility which he ascribes to me on that point, I find my experience here reversing his. The indignation which I feel towards any one who allows the probability of the truth of these charges against me, is something which seems to render every other emotion of my life insig-

nificant. I should be sorry to encounter a "*friend*" who is inclined to express this view to me.

These are feelings which, of course, I cannot expect you, sir, to sympathize with, or comprehend. If I were really 'your daughter or your sister,' you would probably find them more intelligible. There is one circumstance of which I feel myself compelled to remind you in this connection. You may have forgotten it, but I was once, for years I believe, the teacher,—and if their expressions of gratitude and affection were not insincere,—the loved and honored teacher of your own daughters. How you could have trusted so deeply, one in whom your confidence was, what your toleration of these charges implies it to have been, becomes to me, now, a matter of surprise and painful inquiry.

I have written you a long letter, but I had a right to do so. The matter of it, as you know, involves to me more than life. God forgive those who wrong me in it!"

As soon as it was ascertained that the proposition made by Mr. A., notwithstanding the weight of authority and argument with which, had it been urged upon the lady, had wholly failed of its intended effect, the calumnious statements with which he had threatened her beforehand, unless she would accede to his terms, were at once *put into circulation!*

Dr. N., in his conferences with Miss D. and her

brother, had taken the ground that he neither believed or disbelieved the story of Mr. A.; but that, whether *true* or *false*, and therefore, *though* false, *its publication* would be to the lady an irremediable evil. And yet, after taking this ground, and while still taking it in his letters to the brother, *that story was published to the world under the sanction of his name and authority!* And it was done not only without proof, but without the exhibition of any evidence which had as yet created, even in the mind of Dr. N. himself, as he affirmed to Dr. ——, "a *suspicion* of its truth."

For this proceeding, Dr. N. and his family are justly held responsible, inasmuch as Mr. A. had advised with them beforehand as to the steps he should take, and had expressly put himself under their guidance and control in this matter; and inasmuch, also, as he could never have ventured to publish such a story, in such circumstances, without their countenance and assistance. Moreover, it is upon record, in their own statements at the investigation, that they did actually and distinctly advise him to this course, and publicly defend it, as entirely justifiable. The fact is also incontrovertible, that Dr. N. and the members of his family, were personally and actively concerned in its circulation The house of this Professor became, from the outset, the centre of resort for those who wished to hear it. Day after day, as one of the ladies testified, it was

"thronged" with persons who came there to listen to it, and to the arguments with which it was there set forth and defended. This was the method in which the circle of Miss D.'s personal acquaintance became informed of "the facts in the case." Dr. N. went himself, in person, among his former parishioners, then the parishioners of the brother, repeating the tale, and defending the young man.

Nor were Dr. N. and his family the only persons concerned, from the outset, in this proceeding, and to be considered responsible for it. Mr. W., whose connection with the matter has been so fully detailed, was the nephew of Dr. F., another theological professor, and it was the repetition of his statements, (which the story afterwards told by Mr. A. had been produced to confirm and maintain;) it was this repetition by Miss J., a niece of Dr. F., and a member of his family, which had first brought the matter to the knowledge of those whom it concerned. The family of Dr. F., then, were, from the first, deeply implicated in this proceeding, inasmuch as it was here that this earlier scandal had its origin and centre.

Mr. W. was also allied, by the marriage of a sister, with two other professors in the academic department of the University, and thus another powerful influence was arrayed beforehand in support of these young men. Still another theological professor, not the less active because less openly and boldly con-

cerned in it, was, from a very early stage in this proceeding, thoroughly enlisted in its defence. Thus, from the first day of its publication, this tale of monstrous scandal, unsupported by a shadow of proof, contradicted by all the evidence in the case, was sent forth on its cruel errand, under the sanction and protection of at least five University Professors and their families.

Mr. A. was also surrounded by a numerous circle of friends of another sort, young men whom his peculiar circumstances and character had naturally attracted to him, and many of these were at once indefatigably enlisted in the circulation and support of these statements. With such aids, they were not long, of course, in making their way through the community in which they originated. Those employed in their circulation soon found that the field was all their own. No counter statements were issued by the lady and her friends. No story, on her part, was permitted to divert the absorbing interest which this so marvellous one had at once awakened. To that coarse arena of public gossip, whither, in accordance with the threat made beforehand, the matter had now been carried, neither the lady or her friends could follow it. The few to whom it was deemed proper to communicate the facts, were already advised of them. She had done all which it became her as a lady to do,—all that any calumniated woman *could* do in such circumstances. In that storm and

whirlwind of unimaginable calamity and sorrow which now swept around her, "to trust and not be afraid," to believe in the invisible agency which was still guiding it through all its horrors to its destined end, this was henceforth her only part.

The only step as yet taken by the brother, was to consult with those whose advice in this strange and unparalleled emergency was felt to be needed. The friends, whose counsel he sought in this matter, were gentlemen distinguished, not for legal ability merely, but for courtesy and integrity, and the highest sense of gentlemanly propriety and honor, and it was these friends who continued to advise and sustain him to the last in the course which he afterwards adopted.

Meanwhile, the extraordinary position assumed by Dr. N. towards a brother clergyman, in circulating and openly defending a story of this sort, concerning the sister of that clergyman,—a story having for its direct object the destruction of that sister's reputation, began naturally to attract much attention and comment, not merely in the community where they resided, but through the country at large. The distinguished reputation of these two gentlemen, and their known relations of friendship to each other hitherto, as well as the high standing of other persons intimately concerned in the matter; the character, too, and position of the lady so deeply implicated in it, and the extraordinary nature of the story itself, as

well as the indefatigable industry with which it was circulated, all tended to its rapid and continually increasing notoriety—a notoriety which has constituted, from the beginning, its chief element of success.

From the statements thus circulated, all the facts in the case, as here presented, were studiously excluded. It was stated that the lady, after having originally sought the acquaintance of the gentleman, without any wish expressed on his part, had also continued it against his will, by demanding of him attentions which he "could not refuse without being grossly uncivil," with declarations of affection which it distressed him to receive, and with *at least five* distinct proposals of marriage, which "he told her were not to be thought of;" that after having pertinaciously, for two years, pursued him in this way, she had at length determined on revenge, and that she was now resolved to crush and extinguish him altogether. To this wicked undertaking the brother also was now lending *his* powerful aid. And it was as the succorer and protector of this innocent and persecuted individual, whose wealth had made him the subject of this attack, that Dr. N. now appealed to the sympathies of society against his persecutors. From village to village, from city to city, the marvel spread, till almost every village of New England was agitated with it. No tale of private scandal had ever before been known to create so extensive an excite-

ment. All the social influence of the University, so powerful in the city where it was located, all its influence abroad, was openly arrayed in support of this story. The objection, on account of its absurdity, was at once put down by the assurance that documentary evidence, in the shape of *letters from the lady*, were in the possession of Mr. A., and had been seen by Dr. N. and others. "I do not believe it;" was, at first, the universal exclamation in the circle of Miss D.'s personal acquaintance; "she is the last lady in the world of whom such a story could be true." "The story is its own sufficient refutation," was the opinion, at first, every where expressed among those to whom the lady was personally unknown.

But then if it is *not* true, why do such men as Dr. N., and Dr. C., and Dr. F., and Professor P., and Professor B., why do these men all sustain a story like this? This was the inevitable inquiry which every where arrayed itself against this incredulity. These men were the personal friends of her brother; they were the acquaintances, and some of them, hitherto, professedly, the warm personal friends of the lady herself. There *must be* evidence,—there must be grave reasons for believing it, or these men could not assume this position in relation to it. This was now the unavoidable inference, which no refutation disturbed. In these circumstances, was it strange that this calumny began at last to take possession of

the public mind,—was it strange that it began at length to be received and accredited? Again and again the writer heard the remark, "if a lady has conducted so that her own friends forsake her, it cannot be expected that the public will sustain her."

What was to be done in these circumstances? What did it become the protectors of the lady to do in a case like this? What natural defence is there for a lady *so* wronged? None!

But a new aspect of the subject began now to present itself, and one in which it became apparent that the brother was himself now officially and publicly sustaining the scandal against his own household. For, by a deliberate public act, he had made himself responsible before the world, and to all the churches, for the truth, the honor, the moral and religious principle of the man who was now the defamer of his sister. He himself, as a member of the Association which had licensed Mr. A., had personally examined him on his qualifications for the sacred office to which he aspired, and had, with his own hand, recommended him to the confidence of the churches and of the world, as a faithful and accredited instructor in the religion of Christ. So long as his name remained affixed to that recommendation, he was himself the endorser of this calumny.

There was but one course for a man of honor in these circumstances. It was impossible for the

brother to denounce a person towards whom he sustained *such* relations, as guilty of a crime which is ranked in the decalogue with the crimes of theft and murder, without showing reasons for so doing. It was impossible for him to denounce this person to those who had joined with him in this public act of recommendation, as a bearer of false witness,—a calumniator, and one guilty, by his own admissions, of false and dishonorable conduct, without, at the same time, furnishing to the person so denounced an opportunity for defending himself from these charges.

Had that "reference of the matter to arbitrators, who should sit privately," which was proposed at first, been accepted, the necessity of presenting this matter in person to the notice of the Association would have ceased; for this proposed investigation, having once brought the true circumstances of the case to the knowledge of those who shared this responsibility with him, the result must have been the same in the end. But that proposal, made by mutual friends, was declined by Mr. A. and his advisers. There remained, then, no alternative.

Now, the fact that the particular Association, by whom this matter was to be decided, numbered, among its members, the three Clerical Professors, in whose families this scandal had had its origin; and the President of the University, whose bias might be supposed to be in their favor, and several of the

friends and supporters of these Professors, some of them retired clergymen, who, residing in the vicinity of the University, became its natural allies, while the remainder of that Association consisted chiefly of men who had received their theological education from Dr. N. himself,—the fact that the tribunal, to which this matter was to be referred, was thus composed, is that which serves best to show the true character of the step now taken by the brother. Not one instant, on account of these disadvantageous circumstances, did he hesitate in the course which his religious duty and his sense of honor alike prescribed to him.

Meanwhile, the party with whom this scandal had originated, and who were now so eagerly employed in circulating and defending it, stedfastly resisted every attempt to bring the matter to the test of investigation. The injury which such an investigation would bring to *the lady*, was made the plea for this refusal. It was asserted that *full evidence* of the truth of the charges in circulation was then in Mr. A.'s possession, and that any investigation must necessarily result to her injury. For his own sake, and for the sake of his sister, the brother was urgently and pathetically entreated to desist from any inquiry which should elicit this evidence. It was in the face of these assertions that the charge of calumny, falsehood, and dishonorable conduct on the

part of Mr. A. was presented to the Association, with a resolution for the appointment of a committee who should be authorized to investigate the facts on which this charge was founded

CHAPTER X.

THE CONFLICT OF PRINCIPLES.

MEANTIME, while these measures were in progress, private efforts were being made with the persons most committed in sustaining Mr. A., to convince them of the falsehood of the statements which, at such an irreparable cost to the lady, they were then putting in circulation. The peculiar relations of the brother to Dr. N., made it a matter no less of friendship and Christian duty than of interest, to put him at once in possession of the evidence which showed the falsehood of these statements, and the character of the person on whose bare assertion they were now being published.

For this end, the brother gave to Dr. N. a history of the affair as it came under his own eye, and endeavored to prove that in three several cases the young man had falsified the truth. One case urged was, the *written assertion* that the *existence* of the correspondence was known by no persons except the parties themselves, which was proved to be false by Mr. W.'s statements.

These representations seemed to have no effect in diminishing confidence in Mr. A. The brother then addressed a letter to Dr. N., in which he maintained that it was a breach of friendship and violation of the rules of justice, to take the course which he and his family were pursuing toward the slanderer of his sister; inasmuch as the public must regard it as a proclamation that there is no cause for any diminution of confidence and esteem, either from himself or the ladies of his family. And it was stated that so long as this was continued, and was known to be so, the slanderous charges against his sister would be sustained by the whole weight of his character and influence, and that of his family.

In reply to this it was urged by Dr. N., that the course objected to was not wrong or unjust, and for these reasons: In the first place, to Mr. A. and to the lady in his interview with her, this ground had been assumed by him, that, as a common friend to both parties, he neither *believed* or *disbelieved*, but simply *suspended judgment*, and was only laboring to promote such an adjustment as would tend to prevent notoriety and gossip.

In defence of this position it was urged, in the first place, that it was a duty not to prejudge. It was a duty to wait till Mr. A. can show whether he can prove his charges. He *may* be successful, and

until the trial was fairly made by him, there was no propriety in taking any other course.

In case it be urged that the young man is *bound to furnish proof*, it is inquired how long a time must be allowed for his retraction, in case he cannot bring proof? Has the brother a right to fix this time before the attempt is made?

Another view of the case was urged in justification of a suspended judgment. The young man claims that his disclosure was made, not until he was apprised that the gravest charges were made against him by the sister, that he made them to only two or three individuals, with extreme reluctance, designing not to communicate them to any others. And that though he has communicated it to several others, it was only to those who had been made acquainted with the affair, by either the brother or sister. He therefore did it only in *self-defence*, to vindicate his character from an unjust and cruel assault.

And he maintains further, that all the *notoriety* given to his statements has been made, not by him, but by the brother and sister. Moreover, he claims that the charge made by him was not that of a *crime*, but simply an *indecorum*, and that in his view *he has abundant means of sustaining himself before any civil or ecclesiastical tribunal against the charge of false statement.*

Moreover, there is no way to *compel* Mr. A. to *give his reasons* for not complying with the demand for *proof* of his charge. And even should he bring forth his proof, there may be no means (as the case may be,) without an investigation of deciding whether the evidence is sufficient.

Again, in view of the *contradictory statements*, there is no authorized ground for coming to a conclusion. They, being witnesses of equal credibility, the declarations of one exactly balance those of the other, and so no conclusion is possible.

If it is urged that in respect to the character of the sex and *the lady's individual character*, there is presumptive evidence against this charge, then this difficulty arises: The opposing witness is himself impeached of slander, and this *presumption merely*, is not a proper basis for deciding against him. It is not incredible or morally impossible that the lady has done what is charged. There can be no such infallible certainty that she has *not*, as precludes the possibility of proof that she has. Has no lady of similar standing and in similar circumstances, done what is imputed? Conceding *the character*, too, of the lady to be what is claimed, would an enlightened community, or would a court of justice, pronounce the accusation false prior to investigation, on the ground of previous character, sex, and circumstances? If this were insisted on, then why should

the young gentleman *attempt* his own vindication at all?

It is claimed by the brother, that the charges against the lady can be disproved, both on the ground of previous character, and also of contradictory statements from her accuser. But the same is claimed on the other side. And the opinion of one party as to the value of evidence, is not to decide any more than the opinion of the opposing party, as to the value of the evidence on that side. What security is there that an investigation would not change the opinion formed? This, therefore, is a proper reason for suspending judgment.

Again, it is a maxim of justice that *every one under accusation, has a right to the protection of previous character*. Another as important maxim is, that *every one is to be presumed innocent till proved guilty*. In view of these rules it is flagrant injustice to decide that either party is guilty. All that can be done is *to suspend a judgment*.

Another reason for taking this ground is, the injury that must otherwise be inflicted on the young man. He has been as a son in the family of his instructor for a year and a half. Surely, those who have thus cherished, are the last to be called upon thus to condemn, before a chance for trial is given.

Again, it is made known that the young gentleman is to be brought to trial before the ecclesiastical body

of which his friend and teacher is a member. This is another very cogent reason why the matter should not be *pre*judged.

These were the reasons assigned for "suspending judgment."

Then, as to the treatment of the young gentleman by the ladies of the family, as well as its head, so long as judgment is suspended, *conduct* must continue unaltered, just as if nothing had happened. This is the necessary consequence.

It was urged that this course was decided on after consultation with mutual friends, and that it was done *with their approbation.* It was insisted that there was no motive operating in this course, but the fear of God and a good conscience. It was urged, (with earnest and affectionate words, and, as it was said, "even with tears,") that the friendship of years was too precious to be lightly hazarded, and that this should not be regarded as a cause for a breach of friendship. It was acknowledged that the reproaches received for taking the above course had been wounding to all the family implicated, but yet no resentment was cherished. Finally, a request was made to call mutual friends to their aid.

Finding that his demands were thus decidedly repelled, the brother then claimed that, at least, this ground should be taken by the family that was thus sustaining Mr. A., viz., that they authorized the

brother and his friends to say, that Mr. A. was *obligated to prove what he charged* against the lady. It was replied that compliance with this, also, was regarded as *inconsistent with duty!* And the reasons assigned were as follows:

Were the case one in which *a crime* was charged, destructive to character, and if this was done for no good and sufficient reason, the young man would justly be held responsible for proof. But neither of these considerations are involved in this case. The charge, as he claims, is simply an *indecorum*, and it was made in *self-defence*, which is a justifiable reason.

But, further than this, a case may be supposed where a man may be obliged, in self-defence, to state allegations against another which he cannot prove. A case of this kind once occurred in the theological seminary with which this young gentleman has been connected. A lady accused a student of gross improprieties, and when questioned, he said the charge was not only false, but that it was the lady herself who had been guilty of the impropriety charged. The young man had maintained an irreproachable character, and yet he had no means of proving his innocence. Investigation was made, and it soon appeared that the lady's *character* was such as soon removed all suspicion from the young gentleman, and fixed the disgrace upon the lady herself. This was presented,

not as a parallel case to the one under discussion, but to show that cases *may* occur, when, in self-defence, a man may make charges which he has no means of proving.

This was the view presented to justify the refusal to comply with the further demand of the brother. And, in conclusion, it was earnestly urged on him that the more dignified and successful mode to be adopted, and one involving far less evil than any agitation in such circumstances, would be for the lady and her friends to be quiet, and trust for defence solely to the lady's established character.

These were the views which satisfied the judgment and conscience, not only of the gentleman who urged them, but all the reverend gentlemen connected with him as associate professors in the theological school. From them these views passed to most of those whose opinions they could influence, until a very large portion of the intellect and influence connected with the university, through all its ramifications of society, was arrayed in defence of these views.

CHAPTER XI.

ILLUSTRATION OF THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED.

The nature of the preceding arguments will be better appreciated by a parallel case, in which a gentleman takes the place of a lady. Suppose a young officer in the suit of Gen. Scott, soon after a Mexican battle, learns that Gen. Taylor has charged him with cowardly conduct. The young man immediately goes to Gen. Scott, and informs him that he wishes to tell him confidentially, for the purpose of asking his counsel, a matter of some consequence. He proceeds to inform Gen. Scott that, during the late battle, he saw Gen. Taylor run away from the enemy, and hide behind a tree; and that when the danger was over, he saw him come out and rifle the pockets of the dead and dying on the field of battle.

Upon this, Gen. Scott says, "Gen. Taylor is a man of sense, and it is a pity that this story should become a matter of gossip; suppose you go and tell Gen. Taylor this story, and have the matter compromised or hushed up." The young man at first con-

sents to go, but finally thinks there is some danger of ill-usage from Gen. Taylor, and declines. Then Gen. Scott proposes to go for him, and this is agreed on. At the interview, Gen. Scott informs Gen. Taylor of the story received from the young man, and says, *he neither believes, nor disbelieves it, but suspends his judgment* till he can see what proof the young man can bring. He professes to come only as a mediator, to propose that Gen. Taylor shall hush up his charge against the young man, and then the young man and his friends will say nothing, and do their best to hush up this story against Gen. Taylor. At the same time he sets forth the evils that will accrue to both parties, if the story of the young man becomes public, and assumes that it can be hushed up, although already communicated to several persons, but that if this proposition is not submitted to, it will be made still more public.

The absurdity of this supposition is solely owing to the fact, that in this case, no man would ever dare to utter such an incredible slander, and that such a man as Gen. Scott, if such a story was thus brought to him, would, probably, either think the accuser insane, or turn him over to the discipline of the whipping post. But the whole supposition sets in a strong light the most astonishing position assumed by the reverend professor, and the helplessness of the lady and her brother, who had nothing to rely upon

but the laws of honor and the restraints of public opinion.

But suppose, still farther, that Gen. Taylor should urge that the young man is *bound to furnish proof*, and that then it is inquired how long a time must be allowed for this, and has Gen. Taylor any right to limit this time? Gen. Scott, in defence of his client, urges that this charge was not made by him, until he was apprised that the gravest charges were made against him by Gen. Taylor; and that he has told this story only to *two or three individuals*. Gen. Scott states, also, that he has no way to compel the young man to state any proof of this charge, and so he must suspend his judgment.

In case it is urged that Gen. Taylor's *well-established character* is presumptive evidence against this charge, then this difficulty arises: the opposing witness is now impeached of slander, and thus his own character is implicated; and is this presumption merely a proper basis for deciding against him? It is not incredible, or morally impossible, that Gen. Taylor has done what is charged. There can be no such infallible certainty that he has not, as precludes the possibility of proof. Has no man of similar standing ever done what is imputed? Conceding Gen. Taylor's character to be just what is claimed, would a court of justice, would an enlightened community pronounce the accusation false prior to investiga-

tion, on the ground of previous character? If this were insisted on, then why should the young man *attempt* his own vindication?

If it is claimed that the charge against Gen. Taylor can be disproved, both on the ground of previous character, and also of contradictory statements of the accuser, it is replied that the same is claimed on the other side. And the opinion of one party is just as good as that of the other.

Moreover, Gen. Scott, urges that every one under accusation has a right to the protection of previous character, and is to be presumed innocent till proved guilty. In view of these rules it would be flagrant injustice to decide against *either* party. All that can be done is to *suspend judgment.*

Gen. Scott claims, also, that the young man has been as a son in his family for a long time, and, therefore, it cannot be expected that his patron should decide against him, till he is proved to have been guilty. Especially is this the case, when it appears that he may be brought to trial on the charge of slander, and that his patron will be a member of the court martial.

Inasmuch, therefore, as it is incumbent on him to suspend judgment, it is proper, also, that he and his family should treat the young man exactly as if nothing had happened.

On supposition that Gen. Taylor should claim that

Gen. Scott and his family shall, at least, concede that the young man is *obligated to bring proof* of what he charges, this is refused as inconsistent with duty, and on this ground. It is a *supposable* case that a man may be obliged, *in self-defence*, to state allegations against another that he cannot prove. And a case is given to illustrate. And it is maintained that the young man made these charges in self-defence.

In conclusion, Gen. Scott urges Gen. Taylor not to deny the story against himself, or say any thing to prove it false, because this will make it necessary for the young man, in self-defence, to propagate his story far and wide. And if Gen. Taylor is angry, and says severe things, Gen. Scott and his family, though they feel wounded and injured, yet claim not to cherish resentment, but to set a good example of magnanimity and forbearance.

This illustration exhibits in a strong light the different situation of a man, who it is known can and will resent an insult by personal chastisement, and a woman, or a clergyman, who have no such resort, and have no reliance for protection except the civil laws and the *laws of honor*.

The following are the *fallacies* which, it is believed, will be found in the foregoing arguments.

First. A denial of the great principle that protects character in civil affairs, and is enforced by civil

penalties, viz.: that "*any person who accuses another of an act which is derogatory and contrary to well-established character, is to be regarded and treated as a slanderer, till he brings proof of the charge.*

Secondly. Assuming that the charge made against the lady by Mr. A. was, on his part, of the nature of *self-defence.* Instead of this, Mr. A.'s story was the most disgraceful representation which could be made against himself; whereas the statement of the lady that an engagement was existing at the time of his public attentions at V., was the only account of the matter that was creditable to both parties.

Thirdly. Assuming that in *any* case a *recriminating accusation* is demanded as an act of self-defence. When a person is falsely accused, all that is required is to *deny the charge and demand the proof.* To turn about and make a retaliatory accusation, is of no service, but rather a disadvantage.

Fourthly. Assuming that the two parties are *equal* on the ground of *good character.* The proof of the dishonorable use of the lady's correspondence, and above all, the statement of Mr. A. that his public attentions were *after* he had received several offers of marriage, put the character of the gentleman on a very different footing from that of the lady.

Fifth. Assuming that when a man charges another person of conduct contrary to well-established character, and offers no proof, the denial of the charge is

an attack on the veracity of the accuser, and making the question simply one of *veracity* between the two parties.

Sixth. Assuming that any person may slander another to any extent, and offer no proof of the charge, and yet be treated just as if he had done no evil until he chooses to bring forth his evidence, or is discovered to have none.

Seventh. Affirming that the instructor of Mr. A. had no power to *force* him to exhibit proof of what he charged. He had the power of assuring him that he and his family would disclaim and denounce him if he did not do so, and this course would have forced Mr. A. to bring forth his proofs, or have sunk him to hopeless disgrace.

Eighth. Affirming that the *notoriety* given to the affair was made by the lady and her brother. It has been shown that it was Mr. A. and his defenders who were *alone* responsible for this notoriety.

In this stage of the proceedings, as before stated, it was proposed that the thing should be put into the hands of mutual friends for investigation, to avoid increasing the publicity which must result from a regular impeachment before an ecclesiastical body. To this the brother consented. The following extracts from the testimony, shows that this also was declined by Mr. A. and his advisers.

Testimony of Rev. Mr. S.

"I felt it very desirable that this matter should not go before the Association. In conference with Pres. T. and Dr. C., it was agreed to propose to the parties to submit the matter to arbitrators, who should sit *privately*. It was stipulated by Prof. C. that there should be the same facilities for investigation as there would be before the Association. It was agreed that I should speak to the brother of the lady implicated, and Prof. C. to the other party. I was previously convinced that the brother would agree to it, and when I spoke to him he expressed a desire for it. *The other party declined*, and there the matter ended."

CHAPTER XII.

THE MYSTERY.

It is now needful to return to the period when the writer, at the watering-place at V., was in entire incertitude as to the nature of the relation that had existed between her friend and Mr. A. In a journey to which reference has been made, she had been instrumental of communicating to inquiring friends the belief, which at the time existed in her own mind, of an engagement between the parties.

On her return to V. she found that they had left the place, and that the family where they had boarded had come to the conclusion that there was not, and never had been, an engagement between them. This also was the opinion of Mr. A.'s class-mate, the clergyman of the place, and it was in a measure owing to the expression of his opinion on the subject, that the family in which the parties boarded had changed their views as to the relation that had existed between them. This will appear from Mr. C.'s testimony, and also from the testimony of the lady of the house where they boarded.

The following, from Mr. C.'s testimony, shows that at first he found this family impressed with the belief of an engagement, and attempted to remove the impression. The first passage is inserted in order to give his testimony in reference to the writer's interference in the matter.

"Miss B. said to me that they appeared as if they were engaged, and that their conduct was *wrong* if they were not. I asked Mr. A. about the matter, and he satisfied me that they understood each other. I I gave to him Miss B.'s message: [that Miss D.'s friends considered his attentions to her, on any other supposition but that of intended marriage, as unworthy a gentleman and a Christian, and especially of a Christian minister.] When I told him, he laughed. I made a statement to the lady of the house where he boarded, of the nature of the relation between them. I think I said it was a *literary intimacy*. The family expressed the opinion that their conduct indicated that they were engaged."

The following is from the testimony of the lady of the house where Miss D. boarded.

"I had conversations with Rev. Mr. C. soon after they came to V. He *denounced* the idea that Mr. A. thought of marrying Miss D. I have never heard him express but one opinion in all our conversations. I received the impression from *some* source, I cannot tell where nor when, *that Miss D.*

had originally sought the acquaintance of Mr. A. without any request, or expressed desire on his part."

When some months had elapsed, after the departure of the parties from V., the first recurrence of the affair was the reception of a letter by the writer from the brother of the lady, stating that Mr. A. and his friends were circulating disgraceful representations in regard to his sister, and referring particularly to the statement concerning the origin of the acquaintance made to Mrs. S., by the clergyman at V. In conclusion, the writer was requested to furnish an exact statement of the facts.

In compliance with this request, she repaired to her friend the clergyman, and found that he also had been addressed on the same subject by the brother. He immediately produced the letter from Mr. A., describing the introduction, and read it aloud. There was no denying that the thing charged was there. The letter was so written as to *make the impression* that Miss D. was an entire stranger to Mr. A. No mention was made of their boarding together and sitting at the same table, no intimation was given of the peculiar interest manifested by him, even before the introduction, such as to attract the notice of observers. No word was said which implied that he had expressed any wish to any person for such an introduction. He professed to copy the note verbatim, inviting him to visit Miss. D. at ——

Hotel. And then followed a description of the uprorious mirth that followed his reading this note to the four* gentlemen present. It is true, that at the close, he mentioned his belief that Mrs. Prof. F. had something to do with the affair, but it was not done in a way that at all relieved the lady from most discreditable inferences.

The hearing of such statements from a young clergyman of as yet unimpeached honor and veracity, and one whose character was set forth in the highest terms by both Mr. C. and his wife; the recollection of the representations of Mr. J., who, professing to know the lady intimately, asserted that her acceptance of Mr. A.'s attentions was no proof that she intended to marry him; and finally, the entire ignorance of the writer as to Miss D.'s history *in these matters*, all conspired to produce a momentary conviction that she had been drawn into some compromise of delicacy and dignity, which had led to this result.

In the excitement thus produced, the writer referred to the former school history of Miss D., and the fears then entertained that her religious principles would fail her in those trials of future life, to which she might be exposed. She spoke also of her literary ambition in school, and of the trouble it had caused

* The names of the four gentlemen were given by one witness.

in the contest for composition prizes, to which reference has been made. (Page 18.)

It is important to bear in mind the *time* and the *circumstances* in which these remarks were made by the writer, as a very important point in the testimony at the investigation is connected with this incident. The gentleman who heard these remarks, as appeared in his subsequent testimony on the subject, understood the expressions used of *present* feelings and opinions in view of recent developments, as representing the opinions held by the writer in the period of the lady's early school days, which was by no means correct.

Soon after this, letters were received by the writer, stating that Mr. A. not only denied the existence of any "sentiment" on his part, but maintained that such sentiment was manifested on the part of the lady towards himself, and that she had gone so far as to make a proposal of marriage, which he had declined. And in a short time the story had grown till it was maintained that the gentleman numbered not less than *five* such offers from this lady received and declined.

The thing now began to wear an air of such ridiculous exaggeration, that the idea of such a story, as originating with Mr. A., was deemed too preposterous for credence. But at last there came a letter from Mr. A., giving his own account of the matter,

which his friend was allowed by him to read to the writer. In it, that gross and strangest charge against a lady was set forth in the most bald and unmistakable form. The writer, while the letter was being read, that she might make no mistake, wrote a memorandum of the occasions when Mr. A. claimed that these offers of marriage were received by him, and it appeared that most of them had been made *previous* to the time of his assiduous and open attentions to Miss D. at V. At the same time, it appeared that the family of Mr. A.'s instructor, where he boarded, and who had been such warm friends of Miss D., were taking a course which was regarded by the community, by Miss D. and her brother, and by Mr. A. himself, as upholding these representations.

The writer never before found a combination of circumstances for which she could not in some way contrive a plausible theory, but this completely baffled all ingenuity. The gentleman certainly *did* accuse the lady of a course of conduct which, with her character and in her circumstances, *if true*, would prove simply that *she was insane!* That a woman of thirty-four, who had all her life maintained such a character for delicacy, dignity and propriety, a woman of such refinement, of such elevated aspirations and such lofty views, should suddenly become so desperately enamored of a young man who was ten years her junior, as to offer herself to him five

times, and that, too, without any encouragement on the part of the gentleman, would involve such a violation of all the known laws of mind as amounts to full proof of a deranged intellect. If Gen. Taylor were *proved* to have run away in battle, and hid behind a tree, and then to have come forth to rifle the dead and dying, every person would say, not that he was a coward and a thief, but that he had become insane. But there would be only the same reason for the just inference as would exist, if the accusations against this lady were true.

But more than this; the story was such as to implicate the sanity of the young man himself. That a young clergyman, who all his life had borne an irreproachable character, and who was so highly esteemed and respected by his friends, should select a lady of such position, character and connections, should for two years follow her with pertinacious assiduities, should pursue her to a watering-place, and there publicly assume all the privileges ever allowed to an accepted suitor, should be informed by the lady's friends of the views they entertained of the matter, and then, at the close, should go back with her to her intimate friends, who knew these facts, and maintain that he had never felt any "sentiment" for her, but, on the contrary, that this lady had made him *five offers of marriage;* several of them previous to these public demonstrations, this, one might think,

was a heighth of impudence and fool hardiness suited to nothing but a strait jacket.

But there was still another view quite as perplexing and mysterious. In the letter from Mr. A., giving his own story, he stated that his instructor, Dr. N., after taking some days for reflection, had decided to *stand for his defence.* From other quarters, too, it was learned that other friends of Miss D. were taking a course that operated to sustain him. These were persons, who, through a long and useful life, had secured a high character for wisdom and goodness. Some of them were personal friends of the writer, those whom from childhood she had been taught to venerate and love. They had been warm friends of Miss D., and in closest intimacy with her brother. It did not seem possible that they could take such a stand as this, one so utterly destructive to the lady's reputation, without *very substantial reasons.*

The writer had written to Miss D. a letter expressing sympathy and a desire to hear from her. Just at this time came the reply, giving in a few sentences *her* account of the matter. This completed the inexpressible and incomprehensible mystery.

Believing that, whatever her friend and pupil had done, she was in pressing need of sympathy and counsel, and hoping to lend some aid in extricating her from such overwhelming distress, an invitation

was sent to her to come and pass a month with the writer, and this invitation was accepted.

During that time, the history of the whole case was given to the writer, very much as it is set forth in the preceding pages. This served indeed to remove the mystery from one quarter, but it settled down impenetrably dark in another. For the grounds taken by the gentlemen who undertook to sustain the young man, were then first made known, and they seemed so utterly untenable, so entirely unworthy the known characters of the gentlemen who assumed them, that this representation appeared *incredible—impossible!* If the reader will turn back to the chapters entitled the *conflict of principles,* and *the illustration,* it will perhaps be understood how difficult it was to believe that the four clergymen of this University, to whom the moral and religious interests of that institution were chiefly committed, men of the highest character not only for moral worth, but for metaphysical acumen and logical skill, had committed themselves to a contest in which, by assuming such untenable positions, they would so hazard their reputation and involve their conscience.

The only relief in this dilemma was the assertion of the young man, that he had *evidence* to support his charges, which would sustain him before any civil or ecclesiastical court. In this direction there seemed to be this supposition possible; that

some sort of evidence had been concocted by the young man and his associates, which served to convince these gentlemen that this was an *extraordinary* case, in which they were warranted in departing from the ordinary laws of justice which protect character; and yet that such were the circumstances, that they could not make known to others the nature of this evidence. In this aspect, the question came up between the writer and her friend, what sort of evidence *could* be manufactured. Miss D. held his letter in her possession, in which he declared the correspondence destroyed, and though it might be possible, notwithstanding, to find some pretext for producing one of her letters, this was rendered improbable by the character of all the letters she had written him, no one of which could possibly be tortured so as to give even plausibility to his story.

Still, the writer was inclined to adopt the suspicions of her friend, that in such a struggle to escape disgrace, resort might be had to the most desperate measures, and FORGERY and CONSPIRACY were both discussed as the probable weapons to be employed.

It was not long before these suspicions were strengthened by a rumor that Mr. A. had found, *accidentally*, a letter of Miss D.'s that fully sustained all his charges! Eventually, this story reached the writer *as coming direct from Dr. N.*, the young man's instructor and chief defender. And some of her

nearest and most beloved friends, on this assurance from Dr. N., advised her to have nothing to do with the matter. It may well be imagined that this information only strengthened the determination to urge on an investigation.

Every other method for accomplishing this having been already evaded by Mr. A., the only one now left was an appeal to the ecclesiastical body that had issued the license authorizing him to appear before the churches as a preacher of the Gospel. And as a member of that body, the brother now found himself, as has been already shown, a public voucher for the good character of the slanderer of his sister.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE INVESTIGATION.

THE first step taken by Dr. ——, after he found that the calumniator of his sister would not submit the case to a *private* investigation, was to bring a resolution before the ecclesiastical body that had licensed Mr. A., that an inquiry be made into the conduct of one of their licentiates. He then, in order to establish the propriety of this inquiry, presented some of the *prima facie* evidence that Mr. A. had been guilty of slander, lying, and dishonorable deportment toward a lady.

This evidence consisted of the brother's own account of the attentions paid to his sister by Mr. A. during the first year of their acquaintance, and written statements from the writer and her sister, Mrs. S., of the public attentions paid to the lady by Mr. A. at V. The message sent to him as to the views of Miss D.'s friends in reference to such public attentions, as unbecoming a Christian and a clergyman, unless he expected to marry the lady, and the fact that after this message was delivered, such attentions were continued as public and unremitted for several weeks, was also

presented. Then followed an account of the disgraceful and slanderous charge against the lady, made by Mr. A., and circulated by him and his friends.

At this time, Dr. N., his instructor and patron, spoke against the adoption of this resolution, and took this most remarkable position, that even if the facts submitted were proved, *they furnished no proper reason for calling the licentiate to an account!*

This view was discountenanced by the Association, and they immediately appointed a committee of three clergymen of their body "to investigate the facts, to any extent that may seem necessary, and to report whether any action on the part of the Association is called for, and if so, what."

This committee met for the purpose assigned, and the writer was summoned to appear as a witness, and accordingly made a visit to N. at the time notified.

The investigation was interrupted after some days progress, and then resumed some weeks after, when the writer was again present. It never before was her ill fortune to be placed in the midst of a community of such intelligence and moral worth, in a state of such intense excitement, and yet so utterly unprotected by those principles of truth, justice and honor that are the sheet-anchor in such a storm. But the very leaders of morals and religion, those on whose intelligence and moral worth that community had relied for a long period of years, had, with their own hands,

cut the cables, and launched forth into the tempest, and all now was confusion and dismay.

Two parties were in existence, each in the highest state of excitement, each arrayed for the defence of a friend who could be sustained only by measures destructive to the antagonist. One party embraced most of the clerical gentlemen connected with the University, their families and many of their neighbors and friends. The other party included the leading parochial clergymen and a number of the most intelligent and influential families of the city. But the great body of the community, while they heard all the conflicting statements, were sorrowful and perplexed spectators, desiring, chiefly, to escape from all responsibility in the case.

The first party seemed to have very diverse leaders. The most of the work, especially the more objectionable parts, was done by Mr. A. and the *clique* with which he associated, while the Theological Professors, by their character and influence, gave respectability to the party, and to measures which otherwise would never have been tolerated in such a community. In regard to the clerical leaders of this party, it was soon manifest that the ground first assumed, of "*suspended judgment,*" was no longer maintained. Instead of this, entire belief in Mr. A.'s story was openly avowed, and he was regarded and treated as the innocent victim of the base machina-

tions of an artful and unprincipled woman. And when the writer sought to learn how the strange incongruities of this unparalleled and atrocious charge against a lady were explained, it was perfectly astounding to hear what representations were openly set forth in regard to the motives, character, and conduct of one who so lately had been an intimate friend to these persons, and an object of such high consideration and regard. The writer will not perpetuate the shame of these details.

It soon became manifest that, as the lady's well established character was the greatest embarrassment in the case, a deliberate attempt was in operation to blast her reputation, and, as it was erroneously supposed that her brother intended to make use of her testimony on the trial, the most unscrupulous measures were adopted for the purpose of intimidating her, and preventing her from appearing as a witness. The writer, at one time, took pains to learn the foundation of some of the various slanders that were put into circulation at this time. For example, when informed that her past veracity had been questioned, and the evidence was demanded, the whole turned out to be a mistake, or something worse. When it was circulated, and apparently for the purpose of prejudicing certain gentlemen and their friends, that Miss D. claimed to have declined proposals of marriage from these gentlemen, it was found that the

authority for this was a lady who told the writer herself, that she had merely expressed this as *her own* opinion, but never had represented that either Miss D. or her friends had made any such statement. Many other malicious representations, that some very respectable people, who never found themselves in such a calling before, were retailing, were discovered to be sheer fabrications. And finally, the effort to trace slanderous falsehoods was relinquished, from the full conviction that such calumnies were believed, simply because they were *wished* to be true, and not because there was any evidence to sustain them.

On the contrary, resort was made to the relatives of the lady, to her school-mates, to her teachers, to the families in which she had resided, to her intimate friends, and to her pupils, and they *all, without exception,* declared, not only that they never distrusted her truth, or honor, or delicacy, or her dignity and propriety of deportment, but that they never before *heard* her character in these respects called in question, in any place, at any time, or by any person. The audacious and outrageous attempt to destroy, deliberately and systematically, a character so sustained, can be understood only by reference to the circumstances in which it originated.

The apparent success attending that attempt, can be understood only by referring to the fact, that

these proceedings were known to be sustained by persons of the highest respectability, and the impression that there was documentary evidence to sustain them, was every where made on their authority. A lady placed on the defensive by such charges publicly made, is, in *any* case, in a very helpless position; but the fact that in *this* case these charges were from the outset understood to be endorsed by some of the most influential men in the city, and that the whole weight of their influence, official and personal, was thrown into the scale against her, ought to be, of itself, sufficient to account for the result.

The course pursued by Miss D. herself, in these circumstances, tended, perhaps, to aggravate the disadvantages of her position. She made no attempt to conciliate any one. She sought no aid from those who had hitherto cherished her friendship. Wounded and insulted beyond all womanly endurance, she felt that if her character was not sufficient to sustain her from an attack so coarse and outrageous, in a community to whose interests the best years of her life had been devoted, she would not care to be sustained at all. She felt that every *lady* ought to know beforehand, that such a story *could not be true;* that, at least, every friend of hers, and especially those who had shared her confidence and affection, ought to know that such a story could not be true of *her.* And so, instead of seeking to attach her friends more

closely to her, she withdrew herself, at once, from all whose conduct in these circumstances evinced any distrust of her, or any disposition to desert her. Even when she learned that her most confidential friends were determined to join the increasing party against her, and to betray her confidence to her calumniators, and that they were even to appear as witnesses against her, though all that she had said to them in the freedom and familiarity of the most sacred confidential intercourse was to be made public, with whatever modifications the most embittered prejudice could impart, she made no effort to prevent it. She simply informed them that she asked nothing of them but *justice* and *truth*.

Meanwhile Mr. A. and his friends pursued a directly opposite course. He would *accept* of no rebuff. *His* friends were all active. He was all attention and conciliation. Every body heard his story, and few heard that of the lady. Circumstances which were calculated to influence the public mind, where the facts were not known, were in his favor. The reputation of the lady as a woman of talent, the reputation of Mr. A. as a man of fortune, the absurdly exaggerated impressions on that point, in connection with the known disparity of age, were circumstances which it was easy to turn to the disadvantage of the lady, with those who did not know her, especially in view of the claims now made against her.

It had been no part of the original intention of the brother to introduce the testimony of the lady herself upon the trial; and, indeed, she had been told from the first that it would not be needed. But this systematized attempt on the part of her assailants to invalidate her testimony beforehand, and the threats as to further disclosures with which they endeavored to prevent her from appearing as a witness, instead of producing the intended effect, were, in fact, the very circumstances, as was stated by the brother on the trial, which induced him to alter his determination on that point. For these proceedings rendered that step inevitable.

And, indeed, in the progress of the affair, other and most unlooked for developments had taken place, tending to render the immediate testimony of the lady herself indispensable.

At the time of her first discovery of the proceedings in progress against her, the lady had herself communicated a brief statement of the circumstances of the case to some three or four of her friends, in whom she reposed unlimited confidence; and among these, to the pastor and religious teacher of her childhood, who, after having heard the statements of her enemies, came to visit *her* just at the commencement of this outrage.

Among the strangest *mysteries* of this most myste-

rious affair, must be placed the fact that these persons were so influenced as to feel warranted in communicating these confidential disclosures to the party arrayed against the lady. This instantly caused a breach of friendship. Then the persons thus thrown off, found the statements each had communicated were claimed to be contradictory, and not being able or willing to go to the lady herself for explanations, that would easily have made the several representations consistent, they found themselves summoned to appear as witnesses by those who were laboring to prove that the lady had destroyed her own credibility by inconsistent statements. There was no possible way to meet the difficulty, but for the lady to tell *the entire* story, and then the incorporation of these several parts would prove the truth and consistency of the whole.

But the consideration that most deeply weighed with the writer, was the ground now assumed by the instructor and chief patron of the young man. He now seemed to be fully convinced of the truth of Mr. A.'s story, and openly maintained that it could be established by *documentary* evidence in the lady's own handwriting. It was *this* that originated and sustained the expectation in the mind of the writer, of some deep laid plot that was to be sustained by CONSPIRACY, or FORGERY, or by both united.

In these painful circumstances, the case was

presented to the sister by her brother, and she met it with the resolution worthy of her character and the occasion. She did not, as many a woman, not more refined, but less brave and true, would have done, add to the distress of that dreadful emergency by troublesome opposition, or by heart-rending complaints. She met it all with unfaltering trust in God and in her friends.

It was in this strange and painful position of affairs, that the whole community were looking with anxious interest for the action of the committee who were to investigate the whole matter. And after many delays, the time at last arrived. It was deemed desirable by all parties that the inquiries should be conducted with as little publicity as possible. For this purpose, the committee met in the study of the Ex-President of the College, at his residence. No persons were admitted but the parties, their counsel and the witnesses.

As the writer was one of the first witnesses, she was present at the opening session, and took notes of most that transpired. It will not be attempted here to go over the whole details of the investigation. Instead of this, some prominent points will be detailed as indices of the whole.

In the first place, some incidents will be noted as having a connection with important points to follow. The opening business consisted of discussions of cer-

tain preliminary measures. At an early stage of the proceedings, it was necessary to substantiate the fact that the young gentleman had put in circulation the slanderous charge against the lady. And although this charge was in the handwriting of the gentleman to whom it was first communicated, and had been issued from that quarter and circulated all over the land, still, by the advice of his leading counsel, (Professor P.,) the young man refused then to deny, or to acknowledge that he had made this charge. In these circumstances, it became necessary for the brother to produce witnesses to substantiate this fact. The first witness summoned was *the Governor of the State*, and his testimony was a follows:

Testimony of a Lawyer, the Governor of the State.

"Mr. A. called at my office, to take my advice. I had no personal acquaintance with him. I told him the relation of my family to the family of the lady's brother was such that I should be unwilling to be consulted on the matter. I told him, however, that I would think of it, and if he would call the next day I would tell him. He called, and I told him I had decided not to be consulted.

Mr. A. then urged that I should hear his story. He sat down. I was engaged in copying a document, and listened with some impatience.

He commenced by stating that he had no acquaintance with Miss D. until he called at her room in consequence of a written invitation from her to call on her.

I was surprised at this statement, because I had heard that it was in consequence of his solicitation. I said to him, 'I

understood that it was in consequence of your solicitation through Mrs. F. that Miss D. had invited you.'

He said that it was so! and that he imputed no impropriety to her on that account.

He then proceeded to relate the progress of his acquaintance with her, and a great number of particulars. I recollect generally that he stated that on one occasion he received a letter from Miss D. which he regarded as an offer of herself to him. I replied with some warmth, 'Do you feel at liberty, when you have received a letter of such a character from a lady, to state its contents, especially when you cannot produce the letter?'

His reply was, that he had been called by the friends of the lady a black-hearted villain. He proceeded to state that this was *offer number one.* He proceeded to narrate what he called *offer number two*, and then *offer number three*, and then *offer number four*, and so on, till he related distinct offers of Miss D. to himself, to the number, certainly, of *five*, I should think *six.*

I remember his stating that he was invited by a lady, [see this lady's testimony, p. 26,] to a party, and that the invitation was under such circumstances of urgency, that when he went and saw Miss D. there, he felt no doubt of a preconcerted plan between the two ladies, to procure a meeting; that he walked home with her, and that on that occasion one of these offers was made by her.

He proceeded to speak, also, of a letter written by her to him, while at Saratoga.

He said he was going to Springfield to preach, and was surprised to meet Miss D. in the carriage; that he was uncertain how far he should go, and that his own plans were altered on finding Miss D. going to another place.

He stated, that in all cases when Miss D. made these offers of marriage to him, he gave her very distinctly to understand that his visits were not with any view of such a connection, and that he regarded her only as a sister. And he added, that

after Miss D. had made these proposals to him, he continued to visit her, *in order that she might preserve her self-respect!* At the conclusion, I said to him, 'Mr. A., in my opinion you have been very imprudent—*very imprudent indeed!*' "

Hearing this humiliating narration, delivered with a tone and manner indicative of cool contempt, the young man's countenance was perfectly crimson with shame and agitation, while deep mortification was depicted in the faces of his friends. And here appears in its full proportions, a striking example of the most remarkable subterfuges adopted to account for the inconsistencies of the conduct of Mr. A., in connection with *his own* story. It seems he stated that, "after Miss D. had made thse proposals to him, he continued to visit her in order that she might *preserve her self-respect!*" That is to say, those ten weeks of public devotion at V., attracting universal remark, making it certain that disgraceful inferences would be drawn, if not followed by an acknowledged engagement, and in the face of the strong protest of the lady's friends, all this was *designed to preserve the lady's self-respect!* That such an ineffable piece of fatuity should be put forth by a man of any tolerable common sense, is a marvel exceeded only by the fact that so many ladies and gentlemen of such claims to intelligence, should have been brought to such a pitch of bewilderment and excitement as to have received it for truth.

Another incident, though trivial in itself, proved interesting in its subsequent relations. The honorable gentleman employed as legal adviser, by Mr. A., on this occasion, now one of the most prominent among our national statesmen, was a stranger to the writer. The representations made by those with whom he was associated, would naturally occasion some prejudice, not only toward the lady chiefly implicated, but toward those connected with her in the affair. And when the writer was for the first time brought in contact with him as a witness, and subjected to that freedom of remark which it seems is customary in legal investigations, she immediately applied to the committee for protection, and in language that implied rebuke. The flashing eye and excited manner of the gentleman, immediately brought the conviction of the impolicy of a measure that tended to increase rather than to diminish prejudice against the unhappy friend for whose sake it was done, and whose sensibilities were so soon to be exposed to such a scathing ordeal.

In a short time after, the brother found that the time for his sister's presence as a witness proved much earlier than he had anticipated. He sent his son to give her notice, and requested the writer to aid in preparing her for what was before her. On arriving at her residence, it was found that, overcome with physical as well as mental suffering, she

had retired to a darkened chamber to seek the rest and composure needed for what she anticipated as awaiting her the following day. The announcement had been made to her, and threw her into such a state of nervous agitation and distress, as seemed to render compliance with the summons altogether impracticable. When the writer entered, she was weeping bitterly, and at first it seemed in vain to attempt to urge her to the effort. And yet, her declining to appear, after all that had transpired on the subject, would prove pre-eminently disastrous; and protracting the matter, only increased the probability of her increased inability to attend the summons. The writer and her kind sister-in-law both represented the extreme necessity of the case, and urged her to meet the emergency with the fortitude and decision worthy of her character and her cause.

After a struggle which it was painful to witness, the brave spirit rose to the occasion, and in a short time her friends prepared her for the sacrifice, and attended her to it, with some such feelings as those of old might have experienced when they accompanied their martyr friends to their "tortures strange and fiery wheels."

On her arriving, she awaited a few moments her brother's summons, and the party, being joined by the lady of the house, whose noble friendship through the whole proved so efficient and so grateful to her

feelings, they entered the room where the investigation was in progress. Opposite the door as they entered, at the farther part of the room, were placed the three clergymen constituting the committee, behind a table used for taking notes. A table at the side of the room on the right of the entrance, was occupied by Mr. A. and the three gentlemen engaged as his counsel. On the left side of the entrance was another table, where were stationed the brother and the distinguished legal gentleman who had proffered his aid to render any advice or information needed by the brother who conducted the prosecution.

Seats were placed for the lady and her friends on the side occupied by the brother, so that she found herself exactly opposite to Mr. A. No other persons were present; all eyes were fixed upon her. It was a moment of intense excitement in a greater or less degree to all. It was the first time the parties concerned had met since the hour when they had parted in sorrow, yet in kindness; and who could portray the emotions that must now be subdued to external calmness at this strange and dreadful confronting!

For a few moments perfect stillness reigned; the brother then requested that his sister might be qualified to give testimony as a witness. At his request she rose with apparent calmness, though it was evident that every nerve was still vibrating with suppressed emotion, as she held up her hand while the

oath was administered; and when seated, another pause ensued. Her brother commenced by requesting her to narrate the circumstances attending the commencement of her acquaintance with Mr. A. She attempted to do so, but soon paused. He then sought to relieve her by proposing a new question to her. She did not reply. He repeated it. She turned to him with a look of agonized appeal, and said, in a low tone, "I *can* not!" then leaned back in her chair and covered her face.

Almost every one in the room arose. Mr. A., whose face from the moment of her entrance became deadly pale, left the room with one of his counsel, and paced to and fro in the yard. Some went for water, supposing she had fainted, while her female friends drew around to screen her, and soon perceived that the blessed tears were bringing the needful relief.

Meantime, her brother, as an apology for the interruption, stated the circumstances of his sister's illness and the unexpected summons. A suggestion was then made by the chairman of the committee, that, in these circumstances, the witness should not be compelled to testify. The tone of the speaker, in connection with other circumstances, instantly drew the attention of the lady. She was immediately impressed with the apprehension that at least *one* of the judges would willingly dispense with that part of the testimony. It aroused her to the full

conviction of the importance of this crisis, while some of her female friends whispered words of earnest encouragement and entreaty. In a few moments she composed herself to entire calmness, the company resumed their places, and after a few leading questions from her brother to guide her, she went on without interruption with a clear and simple narration of the facts demanded.

The above details have been introduced partly for the purpose of connecting them with the following incident. At the commencement of her testimony, the attention of the writer was drawn with deep interest to the deportment and countenance of the honorable gentleman who was Mr. A.'s legal adviser, with whom she herself had been brought into something like a collision. At first, after satisfying his curiosity as to her appearance, he commenced noting down the evidence in his usual manner. After a short time he threw down his pen, and began to walk the room, and finally took a chair and placed it directly before her, as if to attract her particular attention. This done, he fixed his piercing eyes sternly upon hers, as if she were about to perjure herself, and his intention was to intimidate her. And it might well appear as if none but the firm heart of truth and innocence could have met unblenchingly such a gaze. But she turned her earnest and sorrowful eyes upon him with such an expression of conscious and con-

fiding rectitude as could not fail to affect one so intelligent and so experienced in the exhibition of human character. Gradually his expression changed from sternness to a look of uncertainty, then to an expression of perplexity, and finally to one of deep and serious interest. And on her return home, almost the first remark made, was an inquiry by Miss D. as to the name and purpose of that gentleman who had watched her with so much interest. When informed who it was, her reply was, "I know he believed every word I said."

Indeed, the terms in which this gentleman himself afterwards described the effect which her appearance and testimony produced upon his mind, coming from any other but a person so arrayed against her, might be regarded as the language of extravagant compliment. And notwithstanding some painful passages in the subsequent proceedings which the performance of his engagement toward his client seemed to *force* upon him, it was manifest that his feelings, as a man of honor and a gentleman, were strongly enlisted on the side of the brother, and the kindness and consideration evinced for the lady on more than one occasion, was such as to entitle him to the grateful acknowledgments of her protector.

The following is a brief outline of the course pursued during the investigation.

The brother, as the complainant, after some pre-

liminary discussion, commenced with stating the charge against Mr. A., which was *slander, falsehood,* and *conduct dishonorable to the Christian ministry.* Then followed the evidence which has been set forth in the commencement of this work.

In addition to this, Miss D., as has been stated, was herself introduced as a witness; but as the brother distinctly asserted, not because her testimony was needed to support the charge made, (for there was enough evidence without this) but because there had been a deliberate attempt made to *destroy the character of his sister* by all sorts of falsehoods, misrepresentations and exaggerations.

The lady, accordingly, gave the history of the whole of her acquaintance with Mr. A., very much as it has been set forth in the previous pages, except that she went very minutely into certain details. The object of this was two-fold; firstly, to make all the statements she had given to her friends (especially those who had turned against her by communicating these statements, or her notes and letters, to those who were aiming to destroy her character,) *consistent with each other,* as could not be done except by going into these details.

The second object was to give an account of all the occasions on which she had written any notes or letters to Mr. A., for the purpose of stating their contents, or of producing the copy which had

been kept. The design of this was to forestall the other party, who claimed to have a letter of hers, which would *prove* the charges made against her. Whether this letter was to be a *forgery*, or whether a story was to be concocted that could be made available, in connection with some one of her letters, to convey a false impression, was yet to be determined.

As she knew not which of her letters was selected, and had not been informed of any of the contents of the letter to be produced, she was, of course, completely in the dark as to the plot against which she was to guard. She however prefaced her description, by stating that she was informed that Mr. A. had recently discovered that one of her letters had been *accidentally* preserved, and that it was to be produced against her. She therefore proposed to narrate all the occasions on which she had written any notes or letters to Mr. A., and, so far as she could recollect, the contents of each note and letter. And as she was entirely ignorant as to *which* of her letters was preserved, it was claimed that this would be a fair test of her accuracy and truthfulness. For she could not tell, *in each case*, but that she was describing the very letter to be produced.

When she came to the letter which the legal gentleman held in his hand,* her account of it was so exact, that he immediately put the inquiry, and in a

* A description of this letter has already been given in a previous chapter.

very impressive manner, whether she had not kept copies of the whole of her part of the correspondence. So accurate was her account of this letter, and so consistent were all its contents with her whole narration, that no effective use could be made of it in any subsequent proceedings, by the opposing counsel.

And to any unbiased mind, this fact *alone* would have settled the question. For the accusation was that she had made to Mr. A. *three* written offers of marriage, and one of these offers, it was claimed, could be produced in evidence. And yet, unalarmed by the information, she proceeds to narrate the contents of all the letters and notes she ever wrote to him.

But this is not all! It was claimed by Mr. A. that *two* of his five or six proposals had been received just before leaving N. for *Saratoga*, and he professed to identify certain communications received from the lady at that time, as the particular proposals in question. But it now appeared, from the testimony of the mother, that having arrived in N. just at this particular time, Miss D. had detailed to her in the fullest manner the necessity which occasioned the communications so identified. It also appears that the contents of a note identified by Mr. A. as one of these proposals, were communicated to her by her daughter; (the note to which Mr. A.'s letter from Saratoga was the answer.) The following is the mother's testimony on this point.

"Mr. A.'s subsequent behavior induced her to break off her acquaintance with him. She declared it was impossible for her to remain on such terms with him any longer. She told me she was determined never to give him an opportunity to speak to her again. I was aware of her writing a note to him declining any farther acquaintance. I cannot say positively whether I read the note, or heard it read. She told him in that note she could not see him again, *even though he were to come to G. for that purpose.*"

Mr. A.'s *reply to this note* was read by both the mother and the brother, and they both testify to the impassioned language it contained. The mother testifies that this reply "contained a declaration of warm, eternal, undying affection. I distinctly remember the expression 'I have loved you purely, fervently.' He assured her, in that letter, that his love for her was a love which no change in his circumstances could alter; that even though she should hate him, it would make no difference, that he should love her in life and in death and beyond it." The brother testifies thus: "In that letter he gave an account of the *progress of his affection for her.* He used this expression; '*then I loved you.*' He said, 'though you should hate me, my sentiment for you would remain unchanged.' He said he should retain this sentiment through life, in death and after death."

Miss D.'s *reply to this letter*, addressed to Mr. A. at *Saratoga*, is fully identified as being *one* of the letters claimed by Mr. A. as a written proposal of marriage, and yet the mother declares under oath, that she herself read this reply, and she gives a detailed account of its contents, as will be seen by reference to her testimony.*

It was on this point, and with this evidence to establish it, that the charge of *falsehood* was maintained. Let the character of the lady be taken into account, in connection with this part of the testimony, and also the repeated assurance on the part of Mr. A., that there had been "no sentiment, not a thimbleful on *his side*," and then let the reader attempt to *frame* a case, in which the charge of lying could be sustained by better evidence!

Most of the evidence set forth at the beginning of this work, and the testimony of the lady, and her cross-examination, were completed before the other side came to a hearing. And it should be noted here that this evidence was not kept private. *Every one* of the gentlemen who were sustaining Mr. A. had daily access to it, as fast as it was obtained; so that they had *a full opportunity* to know the truth. And the gentlemen connected with the University, who had committed themselves as defenders of Mr.

* See also the brother's testimony.

A., were, most of them, men celebrated for their logical acumen, so that there was no intellectual impediment to prevent a just appreciation of this evidence. Moreover, they were the men placed by a confiding public in the most responsible post of moral influence in the nation, for the express purpose of teaching the leading minds of our country the principles of honor, truth and equity.

When this testimony was nearly completed, the writer felt strong hopes that the clerical defenders of the young man would be convinced of his guilt, and withdraw from his support. About this time, a call was made by her on Dr. N., Mr. A.'s instructor and chief defender, who for a long period of years had been "her friend and her father's friend." One object of this call was to give the assurance that the events that had placed old friends in such painful relations, had not, on her part, induced alienation, and need not lead to a breach of friendship. Another object was to gain an opportunity of judging, by nearer inspection, of the precise attitude of a mind of such power and acumen in what the writer felt to be so false and inconsistent an attitude. And it was one of the most painful interviews of her whole life. It seemed as if the *whole being*, of a mind of surpassing intellect, of iron will, of impetuous feeling, of ripened skill and acuteness, and of almost unbounded power of influence over other minds, was now firmly

grappled in a struggle to overthrow those principles of truth and justice that are the pillars of human society; nay, more, that are the foundations of the throne of God! And any effort on her part, to interfere by argument, or by persuasion, seemed as hopeless as would be the attempt to stay Niagara by the strength and skill of her fingers.

In the most earnest language, this gentleman expressed his entire approbation of the conduct and character of the young man, claimed to be influenced, himself, only by the purest motives, and appeared to feel that in this collision with the lady's brother he had done no wrong, but, rather, was himself the injured party.

A brief outline will now be given of what was done by the opposing party to *sustain* Mr. A. But this will be prefaced by an account of what was *not* done.

Such a charge as the one made by Mr. A. against a lady, *could* have been made credible in several ways. For example, if proof had been brought that the lady was a bold, coarse, indelicate and unrefined person, who had been guilty, at former periods, of conduct similar to that charged, this would have been very much to the purpose. If it had been shown that she was particularly susceptible, or, at other times, had sought the society and attentions of gentlemen, even in a decorous manner, it would have been *something* to the purpose. If it had been

shown that she was a *mercenary* woman, intensely anxious to gain that power and position that wealth secures, it would perhaps have been of some service, though the fact that she had a fair prospect of making as handsome a fortune by her own efforts, as she could have gained by a matrimonial speculation, would have weakened this sort of evidence.

If any evidence had been brought to show that in her intercourse with Mr. A. she had *sought* his attentions, or in *any* way obtruded herself on his notice or care, it would have been much to the purpose.

If the long threatened disclosure *had* been made of a letter from Miss D. to Mr. A., fully substantiating his charges, certainly it would have settled the question of the lady's reputation beyond a question. But it would not in the least have relieved the character of Mr. A. from the charge of dishonorable conduct, while those ten weeks of unparalleled attentions were still to be accounted for.

Again, had the charge made and widely circulated, that the lady in past time had proved scheming, artful, manœuvring and malignant, been sustained by proper proof, this would have been very much to the purpose.

And, lastly, had an attack on the lady's character for *veracity* been attempted and sustained by any sort of evidence, it would have served a very good purpose, although most of the evidence presented in this

work depends on the testimony of *other* witnesses, and the whole of Miss D.'s *testimony* and her *cross-examination* before the committee, have purposely been withheld, to show that it was not needed, and also for other reasons to be stated hereafter.

In regard to some of these points, there was not even an *attempt* made to bring any kind of evidence against the lady. No attempt was made to show that she was bold, coarse, indelicate or unrefined. No *direct* attempt was made to prove that, in past time, she was found to be scheming, artful, manœuvring, deceitful, or malignant. No attempt was made to prove that she was particularly susceptible, or that she had been in the habit of *seeking* gentlemen's attentions, even in a decorous manner, much less in the methods charged upon her. No attempt was made to prove her a mercenary woman, or unusually solicitous for those particular advantages, not possessed by her, that wealth would secure. And, finally, no attempt was made to show that the lady's character for honor and veracity, in past time, had ever been questioned.

For had a *direct* attempt been made to impeach the character of the lady on these points, the brother would have been compelled to bring forward the overwhelming evidence that existed in that community in reference to all these particulars. He then could have brought the testimony of multitudes of

ladies to the fact, that his sister's character for delicacy and discretion in reference to matters of propriety in relation to the other sex, was not only unimpeachable, but that, if she erred any way, it was in the extreme of particularity, so that by some she was deemed needlessly fastidious.

He could have proved that her character for sincerity, honor and truthfulness, was unimpeached from childhood to the present time. He could have proved, that instead of being artful and manœuvring, she was a person of such an impulsive and transparent nature, that even if she ever had attempted any thing of the kind, it would have been impossible for her to have carried it through a single day without self-betrayal.

And, finally, he could have brought the best of all evidence, the practical and unimpeachable testimony of the *actions* of the first ladies in the city and state, who for years had committed their daughters to her training, and enrolled their own names as members of her classes for instruction. And here was the grand dilemma of those who attempted to blast her reputation. They could not do it without, at the same time, slandering the morals and discretion of every parent in the place, who had given a daughter to her care.

But what they dared not attempt *directly*, they indirectly brought to pass, and this is best illustrated by the case in which the writer was made a party to the

perpetrated injustice. It has been shown, at p. 184, how the writer's mind was affected at V., by the falsehood of Mr. A. in regard to the note of introduction, and by the insinuations of Mr. J., at Boston, as to Miss D.'s past conduct toward gentlemen; and that in the excitement produced by this, in connection with the inexplicable termination of the affair at V., and the conduct then ascribed to her, the writer expressed, in strong terms, her opinion of her character in view of *the truth* of these statements. When called to appear as a witness, knowing that the slanderous charges current in the community had come to the committee, and knowing, too, that it was maintained that she herself had sanctioned some of these charges, the writer, at one point where it was relevant, attempted to introduce her opinion of Miss D.'s character. But the opposing counsel, in the most severe terms, interrupted her, and declared it contrary to the rules of *law* to introduce any such statements. Accordingly she desisted.

But when the Rev. Mr. C. was called in behalf of his friend Mr. A., he was not only allowed (as were several others) to introduce the warmest eulogiums on his friend, but he was permitted to state *the writer's opinion of Miss D.'s character!* And in doing it, he introduced the expressions used by her in the moment of strong excitement produced by falsehood, as indicating the *original* opinion she had formed of the

character of her pupil in early life. When this thing was being attempted, the distinguished legal gentleman who was the brother's adviser, rose and remonstrated in the most earnest manner; and when he found this unavailing, as he sat down, he uttered the exclamation, with a tone and manner worthy the occasion, *Monstrous! Monstrous!* And in the record he was making of the testimony, he has given visible indications of the impressions made on his mind by this unparalleled proceeding.

At this time the writer had left the place, and could not return. The incident was communicated to her. She instantly prepared an affidavit containing her past and present opinion of Miss D.'s character. She also procured one from her sister, who was formerly associated with her as Miss D.'s teacher, and sent both to the brother. *But they came too late to be admitted!* This is a *specimen* of the methods used to prejudice the minds of the committee *in* the committee room. *Ex pede Herculem!*

Inasmuch as the writer's accuracy of memory, on this point, has been widely discussed, a portion of the affidavit of her sister will here be introduced as a verification of the writer's recollections.

"My sister C. has been in my family a great portion of almost every year since we taught together, and I never heard her express the opinion that Miss D. was either unamiable, or untruthful, or artful, or

mercenary. And I always supposed that, as to her good qualities, she had the same opinion of her that I always have had. At the time she was a pupil, I regarded her as uncommonly intelligent, and also as amiable and truthful. I was aware of her great anxiety to obtain prizes, and of her great disappointment in failing to secure them, but I have no recollection of hearing from her, or from others, at that time, any thing that indicated in her an unamiable disposition. On the contrary, I always supposed there was entire good will towards her among all her companions, during the whole time she was in my school."

Another very remarkable thing done by the opposing party, who, it must be recollected, during the whole time that the brother was introducing testimony, insisted, with the most vehement arguments, that he should be strictly governed by legal rules, was, what will probably strike legal gentlemen, to say the least, as a most *original* measure.

Mr. A. was permitted to write out his slanderous charge, in full, with all manner of plausible details to make it less offensive, and then *swear to it*, and this was laid in as a part of the testimony!

In this remarkable document was inserted his *description* of the contents of the various notes and letters which he claimed to have received from Miss D., and for the truth of which he offered no kind of evidence. This article was not only received as evi-

dence at the investigation, but was circulated by his friends in the community where the lady resided!

Another thing presented as evidence by Mr. A. and his advisers, and which they seemed to regard as of special value, was a collection of the INFERENCES drawn by some persons of vulgar or uncharitable minds, at the time of the public devotion of Mr. A. to the lady while at V. To the credit of most the family where the lady boarded, and of most who gave testimony, it appeared that they all had put the only proper construction on such public and exclusive attentions. And it was not until the engagement was denied by Mr. C., and he or some other person had put in circulation the slanderous story about the note of invitation, that they made any other supposition.

It is well known, that in all cases where it is supposed that a fortune is to be gained by a matrimonial alliance, the worst construction, instead of the best, is often given to the motives of the party who thus acquires wealth. And so, too, where disparity of years exists, especially when it is unfavorable to the lady, coarse and vulgar insinuations are not unfrequent among minds of a certain class. But in this case, only two persons could be found, who were so blinded to their own disgrace, as to confess that before the engagement was questioned, they had drawn such uncharitable and coarse inferences. And yet, when cross-examined, these persons could not bring

a single *fact* to sustain such inferences, that does not exist in the case of almost every delicate woman who forms an engagement.

For there was not a solitary instance brought forward by a single witness, of any one thing, on the part of the lady, that could be construed into *seeking* attention. On the contrary, there was a unanimous admission that nothing had transpired in reference to her deportment, inconsistent with the character of the most delicate and decorous woman, who was regarding the gentleman as an accepted suitor. There was nothing done, or permitted by her, which is not warranted in such a relation, by universal custom, and in circles of the highest refinement.

And yet, ministers of religion, and teachers of morals and equity in our highest University, were found collecting and employing such *inferences*, as if they supposed them to be proper evidence. This presents the view of the case which decided the writer to *omit* all such inferences when copying the testimony. And the witnesses thus screened from public contempt, may some day appreciate the kindness of the writer in thus protecting them from the disgrace into which they were drawn by men and ministers who, as, probably, most persons will think, if they did not, *ought* to have known better.

Another thing done by Professor P., as counsel for Mr. A., and which was met by a most vehement

protestation from the brother and from his legal adviser, was the introducing of *hearsay* evidence, such as all legal rules forbid, for the purpose of destroying the impression of direct testimony sustained by cross-examinations. And the point at which this was permitted, was a most remarkable incident in the proceedings. At page 27 it will be seen that Mr. A. acknowledged, and at *two* different times, to Professor R., that the note of invitation from Miss D. was sent in consequence of a request made by himself for an introduction, and also that Miss D. informed him of her reason for sending her note. At page 202 it will be seen that he, a *third* time, made the same acknowledgment to Governor ——.

In the face of this, Mr. A. himself attempted to make out that he was *mistaken in these statements!* To sustain him in this, his friend Mr. W., the person so deeply implicated in the matter, was permitted to give testimony as to *his recollections of a conversation* with his aunt, Mrs. F., who had then been in her grave a year, and two years after the conversation occurred which he professed to report; and Miss J., the young lady so concerned in the *denouement*, was also permitted to give her recollections of remarks of Mrs. F. on the subject. And this kind of testimony was urged on the Committee by the College *Professor of Ethics*, after he had strenuously insisted that the brother, in bringing testimony, should be strictly

restrained by *legal rules;* and after the brother had submitted to these regulations, during the whole examination of his witnesses.

In another case, this same gentleman, unable to persuade a lady, who, as an intimate friend, had received confidential communications from Miss D., to appear as a witness against her, went on himself and stated what this lady *would have said* had she come. Thus, in effect, he gave her whole testimony on *hearsay*, and without cross-examination.

Another case was peculiarly trying. It seems that her former pastor had received a confidential communication from Miss D., which she had expressly requested him to regard as intrusted to his honor, and yet, by some means, it was allowed to pass into circulation. Owing to this fact, he was summoned as a witness against her, and there was probably no other circumstance that operated more unfavorably on the public mind than this. And yet, when he came on this errand, he was so limited in time that he could not stay to be *cross-examined*, and thus some serious mistakes, which a cross-examination would have rectified, were allowed to pass as a part of the evidence.

Other cases of as extreme and serious injustice, in the management of the case by Professor P., might be described, but this is a sufficient index. *Ab uno, disce omnes.*

For the truth of *all* these statements, both as to what *was* done, and what *was not* done at this most unique investigation, the writer appeals, and with the utmost confidence, to the distinguished *legal* gentlemen who were present during the whole trial, and who took notes of the evidence.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE DECISION.

In order to estimate the nature of the decision which resulted from this investigation, it is important to bear in mind the *amount of evidence* which came before the minds of the members of the ecclesiastical body upon whom rested the final responsibility.

It must be remembered, then, that in the first place, *before appointing the Committee*, they had heard the statements sent on by the writer and her sister, of the *public* and *remarkable* attentions rendered by Mr. A. to the lady at V., and of the representations made by these friends to him in reference to their estimate of these attentions. They had also heard the brother's statements in regard to the same sort of attentions previous to the sojourn at V. And they had learned that immediately consequent on these public demonstrations of unusual and exclusive regard, the young man had issued the gross and unparalleled accusation of this lady.

After the investigation was completed, the committee were so divided that the Association received *two* reports, one from the two gentlemen consti-

tuting the majority, and the other from the individual constituting the minority. From the report of the majority, the Association were apprised that the testimony presented had established these *facts:*

That the first introduction of Mr. A. to the lady, was by a note written by her, in consequence of having previously heard from a friend, that he had expressed a desire to be introduced to her. That this acquaintance ripened into a friendship, that they were often in each other's society, and occasionally interchanged notes and letters. That they passed *ten weeks* together at V., where their intercourse was most frequent and most intimate. That those who witnessed this intercourse, drew a variety of *inferences,* some favorable and some unfavorable to the lady. That, soon after, Mr. A., in consequence of hearing of certain statements to some of his friends, that impaired their confidence in him, declared to them (in confidence and *for his own vindication!*) that in the whole affair, the sentiment had been entirely on the lady's side, that he never had expressed any sentiment to her beyond the feeling of friendship, but that she, on the other hand, had repeatedly declared her affection for him with at least one offer of marriage. And in conclusion, they state *that they cannot justify him for making this charge* against the lady.

By the report of the minority, the association were

informed that the testimony established the following additional facts.

That Mr. A.'s communications against the lady were made not merely to a few friends, but to the Governor of the State, a stranger, contrary to his own protest, and after this confidence had been repelled.

Moreover, that the public attentions to the lady at V. were not denied by Mr. A.

Moreover, that the contents of a letter from him to the lady was testified to, by two witnesses who had read it, which described his affection as strong as it was possible to express it, and which, in the circumstances, was expressive of more than common friendship.

Moreover, that the charge against the lady *was sustained by no evidence !*

And finally, the opinion was expressed that Mr. A.'s conduct had been discreditable to himself and dishonorable to the sacred office to which he aspires.

Before stating the action of the Association on the reception of these reports, some facts need to be taken into consideration. It has previously been mentioned that Mr. W., who was so deeply concerned in originating and circulating the slander, was a nephew to one of the Theological professors, while his sister was wife to one of the Academical professors, and daughter-in-law to another. The Professor of Ethics in the College was Mr. A.'s leading advocate, and

conducted the whole business for him in the investigation, while Dr. N., his father-in-law, was the senior Theological Professor. The third Theological Professor, though not entitled to vote in this Association, being connected with another, was both personally and through his family, as decided and influential in sustaining Mr. A., as either of the others. Thus six professors, and their families, were *regarded by the public and by the Association* as committed against the lady and in defence of the gentleman. And what added to the weight of this influence was, that a large portion of these persons had been warm personal friends to the lady and her brother.

But this was not the most trying circumstance. It appears from the testimony, that Dr. N. not only openly advocated and defended his *protegè* among the wide circle of his friends, both in the city and abroad, but that he felt at liberty, *while the investigation was pending*, to employ all his remarkable powers of influence and argument, not only with the members of the Association, most of whom had been his pupils, but also with the members of the Committee, who stood in the position of judges, two of them being his pupils, and the other his classmate and personal friend. And his attempts to influence the views of this Committee by personal representations, were so open as to be a subject of wide observation and remark.

And some estimate may be formed of the unscrupulous methods thus employed, by one fact, which is on record as a part of the testimony. It appears that just before one of the most important votes was to be taken, and one on which the whole question turned, this Professor took an opportunity to inquire of one of the members of the Association, if he was aware of the fact *that Miss D. was claiming him also, as one of her rejected suitors!* The sole authority which he had for such a statement, was the rumor originating from the lady before referred to, who told the writer herself, that she never authorized any such representation, *as coming from Miss D.*, but had expressed it simply as *her own opinion.* A distinguished legal gentleman, on learning this fact, remarked that had such a course been taken with a juryman, in a civil case, by the reverend gentleman, he would have been sent to prison. Moreover it was from the representations of this same gentleman that certain members of the Association received the impression already referred to, (p.) viz. that the original draft of the letter presented to rebut the misrepresentations of Mr. A., and there inserted and described, was a letter from Mr. A., and contained *forged* sentences inserted by the lady. This shows that he had access to the evidence as it was obtained, and made use of it in a way to perplex and deceive those who, not having

this evidence before them, were to act as judges in the case.

A still more important consideration is the fact, that not only the public mind, but various members of the Association, through the agency of Dr. N., had been impressed with the idea that there was evidence against the lady, in her *own handwriting*, that fully sustained Mr. A.'s charges against her, while the majority of the committee stated that their *opinion* was based, in part, *on facts not stated* in the Report.

With these facts in view, some estimate may be formed of the influence exerted by Dr. N., in a body, a large majority of which had been his pupils. The final issue was made on a resolution presented after these two reports had been discussed, and after *these facts* established by the evidence had been distinctly brought up, so that the whole body fully understood them. The Resolution was in these words:

"*Resolved*, 1st, That action in this case by this body is deemed unnecessary; by which we do *not* intend to imply that what the aforesaid licentiate has reported of the relative of the complainant *is true!*

Resolved, 2dly, That as, in the view of *some* members of this Association, the aforesaid licentiate has been *in a greater or less* degree *imprudent* in his conduct, that a committee of three (the names being mentioned) give, with *Christian and paternal kind-*

ness, such *admonition* to him, as in their view the case may require."

The number present at the taking of the vote was *twenty-three*, and of these, *twelve* voted in the affirmative. *Eleven* voted in the negative, of whom, all but two signed a solemn protest against the whole proceedings, and had it recorded. The twelve who adopted the above resolutions, consisted of the President of the College, the two Theological Professors, the College Professor of Ethics, the chairman of the investigating Committee, and two clergymen without parishes. To these were added *five* of the parochial clergy, and of these, one was the gentleman who had been informed by the Theological Professor that the lady was claiming him as one of her rejected suitors. Another voted as he did from some misunderstanding, and afterwards expressed his wish to sign the protest. A third explained his vote as signifying a degree of "imprudence" which was *criminal*.

The minority, on the other hand, consisted of the venerable Ex-President of the College and *ten* of the parochial clergy. And *these ten pastors* were all, except the brother, *former pupils* of the Theological Professor, who took the lead in sustaining Mr. A.! All of them signed the protest except one, who assigned his relations to Dr. N. as his reasons for declining. The Ex-President of the College, as a matter of delicacy, in reference to his peculiar relations,

was not asked to sign it. In this view of the case, it was very generally regarded as the *first* instance in the history of that institution, in which the case might be endorsed "*College, versus Parochial Clergy.*"

Let it be observed, that the *vote itself* expressly denies the assumption that the charge against the lady *was true.* The slanderous charge was not only not denied, but affirmed by the young man, and reported by the Committee as so affirmed, while it appeared by the report of the minority that there was *no evidence* to sustain it. And yet the President of the College, all the clerical members of the Theological department, and every clerical member of the whole faculty, but two, voted that this deed was simply an act of "*imprudence!*" And inasmuch as *some* of the Association thought the young man had been "more or less" imprudent, a committee was raised (one of whom was the President of the University,) to admonish him "with Christian and paternal kindness" for this imprudence!

Let it be supposed that the lady *had* been proved to be guilty of the gross and fatuitous wickedness charged upon her, what could they have done *less* than to admonish the young man for *imprudence* in those ten weeks of public attentions set forth as established by evidence? This vote not only *did,* in fact, condemn the lady, and clear the young man, but it

was so understood and so set forth, both privately and in the public prints.

Before this vote was taken, the venerable Ex-President warned them, in the most emphatic language, of the danger that must result from attempting to settle this matter by any unjust methods. He told them it must be settled *right*, or it would not remain settled, and they would be obliged to do it all over again. To his just and sagacious mind, it is evident that "coming events were casting their shadows before."

Nor was it less clear to the writer, not only that this appeal to the public, which then was in the future, would be realized, but that her own agency in the matter would be just what it has been. And in reference to this probable result, notes were taken, and letters and documents were preserved with care, when no human being ever suspected what was thus anticipated.

To the writer, this decision, adopted by men who from early life had been regarded as the central agency of a great and powerful system of influences, came like desolation. During the sleepless night that followed, the waking visions that haunted the hours of rest seemed like some of those troubled dreams of the sick bed, when the sun seems moving from his centre, and all the heavenly bodies are rushing from their courses in confusion and dismay.

CHAPTER XV.

VIRTUAL CONSPIRACY.

The results which have been detailed were so extraordinary, so contrary to all past experience, so appalling in their tendencies and relations, and to the writer so shocking to all her moral sensibilities, that the first effect was a kind of bewilderment and stupor, which was succeeded by such overpowering excitement as threatened serious physical results. Happily, at this time, an engrossing benevolent enterprise was claiming every energy and demanding constant attention, and thus the danger was in a measure escaped.

But a long succeeding tour furnished opportunities of learning the *consequences* of this decision, such as no other person could have observed. During the progress of the investigation, the case had been referred to, or detailed, in both the political and the religious papers, the lady's name being introduced, as well as that of her brother. As soon as the decision was made known, the party who sustained Mr. A. received it as a triumph. Congratulations were offered, and social parties were made, which were gen-

erally understood to be on his account, and where he figured as the hero of the hour. At the same time, paragraphs were put in circulation that went the rounds of the public press, stating that the decision in this case was *an entire acquittal* of the gentleman accused.

Now, as the most singular and gross accusation of the lady had been made the conspicuous point of attention, an acquittal of the charge of slander, in such a case, was of course equivalent to the avowal that the thing charged had, on investigation, been found to be true. No counter statement could be made by the lady's friends without the certain result of a newspaper warfare, and so these statements *went uncontradicted* all over the nation.

As a matter of course, the writer, coming fresh from the scene, was interrogated wherever she went. In hotels and railways, in steamboats and stages, in the house and by the way-side, wherever she met a graduate of that college, or an acquaintance of any of the many distinguished persons connected with the affair, or a person whose attention had been called to it by the public prints, the matter was brought up for discussion. Not only through New England and the eastern cities, but in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, the same topic constantly recurred as a matter of curious inquiry or accidental remark. There was no escape from it;

while the accumulating evidence of the nature and extent of the outrage made it impossible to forget it, or to imagine that it was of small account.

In the course of this journey, the writer learned that her friend was invited to give a course of historical instruction in a large female Institution, and believing it due to those who had given her this invitation, that they should have the means of presenting *the truth* in her defence, the writer drew up a short statement, comprising the leading facts detailed in the preceding pages. This was designed not only to meet this specific case, but as a test of what had been the effect of these transactions in the two communities where her friend was best known. It was drawn up with some hope that the *truth* would finally conquer, and that those who had, in the heat of excited partisanship, hid their eyes from evidence, and fought against the principles of truth and justice, would, in calmer moments, review their course with regret, and strive to remedy the wrongs they had inflicted. It was under the influence of such a hope that the main aim of the article was to justify the innocent, and yet as little as possible to attack those who had sustained and defended the wrong.

Several copies of this article were made, and it was extensively circulated in private circles by the friends of the lady implicated. And on her journey a copy was used by the writer to exhibit to any who might

inquire. But it was soon perceived that the statement of an individual, and one, too, regarded as a partisan, was of little account. The leading members of the faculty of the college, and the Professors of the Theological Seminary, were now sustained by the decision of an Ecclesiastical body, and it was impossible to make any person believe that such an account *could* be true.

It was during this tour that a fact came to the knowledge of the writer, which, in connection with other considerations, opened a new view of the subject. It will be recollected that at the time the writer resided at V., and was supposing that an engagement existed between her friend and Mr. A., she visited Boston, and took board in the same family with a certain individual designated as Mr. J., and that his remarks at that time produced the impression that he regarded Miss D. as a woman who, having no wish to marry, was yet willing to attract admiration. And it so happened that Mrs. B., the lady who kept this boarding-house, was the sister of the Theological Professor at N., in whose family this scandal first came out. And the writer was now informed that a story was in circulation, on the authority of this lady, by which it appeared that Mr. J. was claiming to have been a fellow-sufferer with Mr. A., in just such an affair with Miss D. That is to say, *another* gentleman now makes his appearance as a decided party in this plot,

and, as in the other case, it was one who, by his own confessions, was under obligations of gratitude to the lady he was helping to crush. Could it be that *he* was the authority for the assertion so often made by the supporters of Mr. A., in their attempts to ward off an investigation, that there were other disclosures that might be made that would cover the lady with infamy? In this connection it was recalled to memory, that during the investigation, a *private statement* from Mr. J. was said to have been put into the hands of a friend of Mr. A. for *private* use, which none of the friends of the lady were allowed to see. Perhaps this was one cause of the strange position assumed by Dr. N., that circumstances *might* be such as to warrant a man in making charges against the character of another which he could not prove. Perhaps this was *one* of the facts to which the majority of the investigating committee referred, when it was stated before the Association that *all* the facts on which their report was based were not brought forward!

At this time the conviction returned, that though *Forgery* had not been attempted, the suspected *Conspiracy* was virtually a reality, and that future investigations would establish it. It was some months before any steps could be taken in reference to this new development. But when the opportunity finally arrived, the writer addressed a note to Mrs. B., the lady with whom Mr. J. had boarded, and from whom the

story came, stating that the information came *direct from her* that Mr. J. had represented that he himself had been brought into a similar difficulty with that which Mr. A. was claiming to have suffered from, that is, that he also had been annoyed by the lady with advances amounting to offers of marriage. Mrs. B. was informed that if she could *deny* this, it would be of essential service to the gentleman implicated, and that her *silence*, if she did not, would be understood as equivalent to an acknowledgment of it. Mrs. B. *declined giving any such denial*, while a lady present at the time of the delivery of the note, told the gentleman who presented it, that *she* also had heard Mr. J. make similar statements. Here, then, are two persons who can be summoned to prove that such statements have come from Mr. J. himself.

When Miss D. was informed of this, she of course felt herself justified in putting into the hands of her friends the documentary evidence of the falsehood of these statements, which, fortunately, *in this case*, was still in her possession. And certainly, there is no danger that this gentleman will deny, in the presence of any person who has read his correspondence with Miss D., that he has *more than once* made *formal proposals of marriage* to her, and that these offers were declined!

How kindly and how honorably he was dealt with by this lady, will appear, in the first place, from the

fact that this circumstance was so well concealed by her, that it is believed not a single person in the place where it occurred,—not even her own brother who resided there, so much as suspected it, *until, years afterwards,* when these disclosures were *forced* upon the lady *by false and discreditable statements* on the subject, *proceeding from the gentleman himself.*

Still more evidence of her honor and kindness will be manifest from the following extract of a letter addressed to her by this gentleman after she had declined his proposals, and during his sojourn in England.

"MANCHESTER, *England, May* 24.

"My only apology for writing this letter is, that an impulse *stronger than prudence or propriety* urges me to tell you my impressions of this wonderful country, interesting amid all its evils, and glorious in all its shame. You once *gave me permission* to write you from Europe, and you have never withdrawn it, *in so many words.* Moreover, it was you who encouraged my schemes when others sneered, and had faith in an experiment which the world pronounced Quixotic.

The experiment *has* succeeded most nobly, beyond my most sanguine expectations, and I see no reason why I may not accomplish all that I used to speak of in those proud hours when you honored me with your friendship. You may call me presumptuous in writing this unexpected letter, if you please; or if it suit you

better, you may throw it in the fire *from indifference or anger;* still, one thing is clear, it can do you no harm, and offers you *no disrespect. For* it is not to be supposed that a man would take the trouble to write about indifferent things to one whom he did not esteem, separated from him by a wide ocean, and one whom he does not expect to see for years, and to do this amid the excitement of a foreign land, and in the enjoyment of friends and pleasures more numerous and flattering than were possessed at home."

* * * * *

"Of course, I should be delighted to receive a reply to this, but as I do not wish to embarrass or entangle you, by correspondence, as *I ask nothing* from you—as *I expect nothing*—not even the cold and proper friendship which the cold and proper justify, I feel scarcely warranted to give you my address, which is, however" * * * *

"LONDON, *June* 22.

"I concluded not to send this letter, but after a month concluded I *would* send it, *let what would come!*"

To this long epistle, after some months Miss D. returned an answer, with which he was so much pleased, that he assured a friend of the writer that he had read it to "more than forty persons." At the close of her letter, however, she stated that her many avocations would prevent her from replying to his let-

ters in future, though his accounts of his travels were interesting to her, and she felt gratified and honored by such communications. And yet, in spite of this assurance, letters continued to come from him, *to which no replies were returned*, until a respectable volume might be made of their contents.

This, then, is the gentleman who first assured the writer that "Miss D. was a woman that did not wish to marry; that it was his opinion that she would never marry *any person*"—and then, when his friend and benefactress is brought into circumstances of such unparalleled distress, turns about and puts in a claim to the same sort of notoriety and distinction which he perceives awarded to the leading hero of this unique history!

Did Mr. A. and Mr. W. take this gentleman into co-partnership as soon as they learned his claims? And how could they fail to learn them when it was a near connection of Mr. W., who heard this boast? Some one is of course dispatched in urgent haste upon this business. *Who is this agent?* What irritating statements does he make to Mr. J., for the purpose of provoking him to testify against the lady? What is the reason that, with all this; he *cannot* induce him to confirm these *private* assertions by appearing as a witness against her? Is it because *those letters of his* may yet be in her hands, that he *dare not* venture?

But at least he may furnish a statement to be used

only where the promise of *entire secrecy* is obtained. Was such a statement communicated to Dr. N., and was it this that led him to maintain his singular position in the face of all the opposing evidence?

Was this statement communicated to any members of the investigating committee? Was this one of the facts on which the *opinion* of the majority rested, which was not presented in their report?

And how many other things of this nature have been concocted, and *privately*, and under *promise of secrecy*, brought to bear on this case? It can be proved that the brother of Mr. W. has made his appearance in almost every place where witnesses were to be prepared against the object of these machinations. And as it was found that *truth* could only serve to elevate, instead of injuring the lady's character, such proceedings became a necessary part of the business of this case. But the rules of truth and honor once abandoned, who can say what has not been done?

Another circumstance tended greatly to strengthen the conviction that good men had been bewildered and misled by some unparalleled accumulation of foul play. There were two members of the corporation of the institution in question, to whom the writer could have ready access, and who were personal friends both to the brother and to those who now were arrayed against him in sustaining the slanderer

of his sister. There was a glimmer of hope that they might possibly be induced to use their influence according to the rules of the Gospel, to sustain the principles of truth and justice, and to bring these their friends to a true understanding of the false positions they had assumed, and of the fatal evils resulting therefrom.

With this object in view, a copy of the statement of the case before referred to was given to these gentlemen, and with it was sent another document that it was hoped would appeal to their hearts, both as *gentlemen* and as *Christians*. These gentlemen also had the fullest opportunity to make any sort of inquiries, or they could have examined all the evidence just as the writer did, and as they might easily have done.

A far shorter method was at their command, and that was simply to inquire whether the monstrous charge against the lady was *proved*, and if it was not, WHY those who originated, and those who propagated the calumny, were not to be dealt with as *slanderers*. Or, on either alternative, how men of honor could sustain the young man *even in his own story!* These questions would have been all that was needed to furnish them with proper grounds for remonstrance.

But the result of this measure was such as took away all hope of any such interference. For, in the case of one of these gentlemen, he could not understand, as he said, "any more than the babe unborn," why the lady should feel resentment toward her for-

mer pastor for betraying her confidential communications to her slanderers, and in consequence of it, appearing as a witness against her, and then so arranging his affairs that even this testimony could not be fair, for want of the cross-examination which he escaped! And still greater was the marvel when, *after* this, the other reverend gentleman invited Mr. A. to appear in his own pulpit as a teacher of truth and righteousness, and this, too, when his license, by its limitation, had expired, and its *renewal* was brought about by means which are the appropriate closing act of this mournful and humiliating affair.*

The result was a deep conviction that if there had been no *preconcerted* plot, there had been actually carried out, and that, too, most successfully, what was in its real characteristics, nothing other than a *Malignant Conspiracy!*

* It appears that a postponement of the regular meeting of the Association was notified to all its members. At the appointed time, however, a few of the majority were present, though not enough to constitute a quorum. And *at that meeting* application was made in Mr. A.'s behalf for a renewal of his license, and though not *one* of the *nine protesting* pastors was present, *the request was granted!*

At the opening of the next meeting, this irregularity was brought to the notice of that body by the reading of the minutes in connection with the rules. And, though the rule defining a quorum was deemed of sufficient authority to delay inconveniently the proceedings of the meeting then about to be opened, it was, for some unexplained reason, not permitted to create *any* question, as to the validity of the proceedings in which it had just been so outrageously violated. It was not until this meeting was evidently about to close without any notice of this proceeding on the part of those responsible for it, that its validity was at length called in question by a member of *the Minority*. The question was therefore postponed until the next semi-annual meeting, which has not yet been heard from.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE CONCLUSION.

As soon as the writer became convinced that no private influences would be exerted to redress this high-handed injustice, the determination was formed to appeal to *the public*, that "impartial and sole remaining tribunal."

With reference to this, a letter was addressed to her friend, in which her consent to this measure was earnestly solicited. It was proposed that the work should consist, in part, of extracts from the letters of herself and her friends, written as the events transpired; the remainder to be prepared by the writer and her sister. The following was the reply to this proposal.

Letter to Miss B.

* * * * * * * *

"I have hitherto been disposed to trust in this matter very much to the wisdom and guidance of others, and have been led along without presuming to question the steps of my conductors. In regard

to the appeal to the Association, I had no suspicion that the first proceedings in the case necessarily involved such a step on the part of my brother. I can truly say that I had never seriously contemplated such a result, when I was told that he was already inevitably committed to it.

In that breathless whirlwind of events, my free agency seemed wholly taken from me, or all that I had left was used in trusting and obeying others. I do not say that I should have acted differently if I had known all that was before me. I trusted to my brother's honorable and manly nature, to his delicacy and consistency, to his high sense of duty, and to his affection for me. And he did not disappoint me. My brother did what it was his duty to do. As a gentleman, as a Christian, as a minister of Christ, he *could not* have done otherwise. And were that step to be taken over again to-day, with all that I now know of the results, I do not say that I would not act now as I did then. God, who knoweth all things, knows that I would. But I would not again be hurried into it unawares. I would know the way in which I was led; I would measure my steps and count the cost beforehand, and resign myself to it. I would go, not as "the bird hasteth to the snare and knoweth not that it is for her life."

But I am no longer in the position of one who decides on some great course of action, looking to *prin-*

ciple alone, and heedless of results. I have become very wise in the doctrine of *consequences*. Now that I know what suffering is, not by anticipation or report, but by experience, I have grown most critical as to the wisdom of measures in which I am involved so deeply. I can see in those plans what others cannot see, the heart-strings, the living fibre of which they are woven.

How can I doubt your power, or that of your sister, to accomplish what you propose? I know how the commonest things become invested with life and interest by her vivid and truthful genius, and I know what power you have at command for *every thing*. And when the subject is one that has moved your generous hearts so profoundly, how can I doubt that you would bring *the world* over to my side?

But there is one aspect of this subject which, perhaps, you do not consider. That shameless *notoriety*, which it was the policy of my oppressors to extend to this affair, and with which they sought to crush me from the moment that I refused the base compromise they proposed to me, was, you know, their most dreadful weapon. *That*, from the outset, was felt to be a wrong for which this world *could* have no remedy. Even if the wickedness by which I suffered had been exposed *at once*, the publicity which was given to it would have made the evil irremediable. God, who has called me to this great suffering,

has at last given me grace and strength to bear it; but my sensibilities are no more hardened to it than they were the first moment in which it fell upon me. And I never wish them to be hardened to it. I trust the hour will never come when such a sacrifice shall cease to be with me 'a living one.'

All that God *requires* of me in this matter I desire to offer to him, but I cannot put myself *voluntarily* in the way of such suffering. And I cannot, merely for the sake of any prospective advantage to myself, be instrumental in directing public attention to this subject. I would rather bear all the obloquy and dishonor which have been heaped upon me, than to right myself by any kind of appeal to the public, or by giving my consent to such an appeal. All the justice, the sympathy, the honors of this world, are not worth the sacrifice which such a step would involve.

Consider but a moment, and you will see how that which it is most kind and generous in you to plan, it would be unwomanly in me to permit. All that followed the promulgation of the slanderous charges against my character and conduct, transpired on so wide and conspicuous a theatre, and involved so many and such public actors, that from that time it ceased to be personal to myself, and became a matter of public moment. But the history which you propose to write, must, of course, go further back

than that, and include a period in which the person, who is now so unspeakably contemptible, was connected with me in the most sacred of human relations. If he had been, indeed, what I then believed him to be, how could I take all the world into a confidence from which even those whom I loved were once instinctively excluded. And the argument of your story would compel you to insist most on that, which it would be most painful to me to communicate in any case. And when you think what kind of a person it is with whom I should be obliged to claim *such* affinities, you will see how impossible it is that I should ever consent to it.

You know under what pressure I gave my testimony at the investigation, and will acquit me of inconsistency in that. *Then* a necessity was laid upon me with which I had no right to struggle. But if I were voluntarily to renew that distress, in the hope of regaining the life and honor I have lost, instead of the small private circle, in that little quiet study, I should summon around me the world for my audience. And then what should I have left in my heart that would be worth saving?

Do not think I mean to condemn you for your plan in itself. It is just what I might wish to do for another in such circumstances. It is what every novel does for the characters it exalts most highly. And, perhaps, I might consent to be offered up in

this way for the service of others, after I am dead, though a *post mortem* investigation of this sort always seemed to me a profane operation. It is better than being analyzed alive, however. Forgive me!

That the power of your story would, in the minds of most of your readers, overcome this primal difficulty, I do not doubt, and that it would make a heroine of me to the last syllable of my recorded time, is as little to be questioned; but if I were sure it would bring back all I have lost, without one dissenting voice, I would rather be as I am than consent to it.

My dear Miss B., it is not any change in *the circumstances* of my life which is needed to make me happy even here,—even in *such* circumstances as these. God has shown me that already.

You know how I have always struggled with this calamity, and would not suffer it to enter my soul. I might have died a year ago by simply yielding to the natural grief which my circumstances were fitted to awaken. But I would not yield to it: I resisted the unspeakable injustice that assailed me. I knew that God was on my side, and I trusted that he would deliver me.

You know, too, how from the first it went on increasing in magnitude and cruelty, week after week, and month after month; how one deadly thing was

added to another, till it seemed as if no human heart, —no woman's heart could endure any more, and still continually more was added. What had happened in this history before Dr. N.'s visit to me, was enough, one would think, for any ordinary story of wrong; and yet I almost look back upon that now, as the beginning of this outrage. And it was the *human* instrumentality in my affliction that made it so hard to endure. That those who owed me such kindness should have been the ones selected for such a ministry, this was the bitterness of it.

But all this time I was just as much assured of my ultimate vindication in this matter, as if the moment of that vindication were already present. I thought, at first, that the investigation of the committee would be all that would be needed. The idea that an investigation could take place *before any kind of a tribunal*, and not result in the exposure of a wickedness so flagrant and audacious, did not so much as occur to me then. And when I found, at last, how the committee were influenced, I still supposed the Association would decide it justly. And when that, too, failed, the protest of the minority, and the private statement which you yourself prepared, still promised to me that vindication 'in the eyes of the world,' which I could not yet relinquish.

But at last the hour came when the expectation which had so long sustained me in these strange

calamities, was taken from me. The utter impossibility of any human remedy for this evil was, at last, made apparent even to me. My dear friend, I do not wish you, or any one, to partake the sorrow which attended this conviction. It is not yet past, but in those days and nights of utter helplessness 'light was sown for me.' In them, 'waters of a full cup were wrung out to me,' but the very last drop was needed to accomplish God's purposes of kindness, even *towards me.*

For it was that latest act of cruelty and injustice to which you refer with so much feeling, [a printed paper purporting to be the Answer of the Majority to the Protest, and circulated as such all over the country,] it was that, and the subsequent proceedings of the Association, which enabled me at last to let go, as I think, forever, of the things that are seen in this matter, and to trust myself wholly to the strength of that which is invisible and eternal. When that paper was put into my hands I was already prepared for it, and yet I sat, I cannot tell how long, trying to obtain strength enough to read it. You have thought me morbidly sensitive to blame, you know, and here was a great printed document with my name in it in full, and the most unnatural and odious charges affixed to it, apparently by the highest authority in the church, and this *to be circulated, under that sanction,* among all the clergymen in the country.

Shall I tell you what enabled me to read it, at last, with as little pain as if it had been written of some one who died a thousand years ago? The thought of God which came to me at that moment is one which, I trust, will never leave me. I remembered that there was no wrong in *him*. You must come to such a pass as I had come to then, before you can know what it is to believe *this*. '*Just* and *true* are all *thy* ways,' I said, and 'I was hid in his pavilion from the strife of tongues.'

With the experience I now have, I no longer hope or pray for any change in those external circumstances of my life, which have seemed to me hitherto so cruel, so wholly insupportable. The grace to *endure* is better.

When I find the everlasting gates of righteousness thrown open to me, and the light and air of heaven flowing around me even here, how can I ask that the ministry through which *this* is accomplished should be withdrawn? Indeed I do not *need* to ask it. For the moment I am assured of these realities, there is nothing *left* for me to endure. I look around for my trouble, and it is gone. That iron-built fabric of care and wrong and grief dissolves in music and sunshine, and when I carry about with me, in my own heart, the divine secret of such a spell, why should I ask for clumsy tools and workmen to do for me slowly and imperfectly what can thus be done for me in a

moment? For more than a month, all the hope and joy of life have come to me from this source, and sometimes it is enough and more than enough. Sometimes, too, it passes from me, and I look to the earth, and trouble and darkness overwhelm me. And yet my prevailing feeling is, that if a word could restore all I have lost, I would not speak it.

Utter helplessness, human despair, sorrow, in which the fear of death is all taken away, have made this period forever memorable to me. But the most beautiful hours and days of my life are sealed up in it. None but those who have entered such depths of humiliation and sorrow as those that have closed over me, can know the joy that God prepares for those who are willing to suffer for his sake. The solemn conviction which constantly attends me, that these sufferings *are* for his sake, and that they are to be appropriated to the same cause in which Christ himself suffered, is a thousand fold better to me than any earthly honor I ever did, or could receive.

And yet, let me not give you a wrong impression with what I write. How often I yield to impulses, how often I sin with my lips, how often I *fail* in this divine life, God and my own heart alone can know. But the prayer which Christ taught us to pray, has a strange efficacy in circumstances like mine. When I say from my heart, forgive me as I forgive; when I desire, as I do often, that these sufferings of mine may

tend, not to the harm, but to the final welfare of those who inflicted them, then I know, with an assurance nothing can enhance, that God is at peace with me.

You say you believe that God is preparing me by all this sorrow, for some great and good work, and that he is purifying me for it. I do not think so. That was what I used to think before this trouble came, for I have had trials before. But I see now that I have over-estimated my faculty of labor. The purposes that had become a part of my being, are broken off. God does not need my labor, he appoints me to suffer.

I have never supposed that such a wrong as this could break out in the very heart of the church, endangering so many precious interests, and growing into such portentous magnitude, for the sake of *my* spiritual benefit alone. I have always believed that some great and beneficent design of Providence is concealed in this mystery, great enough to compensate for all the evil, and I believe so still. And when, at last, that plan is revealed, doubtless I shall see that I have been made to subserve the interests to which I was already devoted, far more effectually than I could have done in realizing my own most cherished purposes; while for myself, perhaps, the only way to life was through this path of wrong and sorrow.

The sum of my impressions with regard to your proposals, is this. I should suffer by such a proceeding far more than I should gain, and what I should gain would not, on the whole, be desirable for me. And as to the interests which are involved in this matter beyond mine, I do not think it is my duty to put myself *voluntarily* in such a position for the sake of serving them. It would be *going out of my way* to procure suffering for myself, and I have found it hard enough to endure when it came on me by God's irresistible appointment. I was *impressed* into this service, and the feeling that the responsibility was not mine, is all that has sustained me. Were I to lose that, I should die.

In this period of darkness and sorrow, my beloved friend, what have you not been to me with your unfaltering friendship and truth? Your letters have come to me like messages from heaven, in my darkest hours, at times the only visible sign that God himself had not forsaken me. I did not intend to write this long letter when I began. I do not love to write on this subject. So far as I am concerned, I feel that it is now finished. I have neither fear, nor hope, nor wish concerning it."

Immediately after the receipt of this letter, the writer was embarrassed by circumstances of unusual trial and difficulty, in carrying out the educational

enterprise in which she was engaged, so that no time or thought could be given to anything else for several months.

During that period, all correspondence with her friend ceased; but at one time she received a communication from another hand, setting forth in a most earnest appeal, the necessity of doing *something* to sustain the spirits, and furnish occupation to her friend.

It was stated that no persuasions could induce her to leave the scenes associated with so many distressing and exciting transactions, that she maintained that, in circumstances of sorrow, and oppressed with obloquy, her brother's house was her proper home, and that her enemies should not drive her from it; that in that city, she knew there were *none*, whatever they might pretend, who did, or could believe such a monstrous calumny; but that if she went among strangers, where she was unknown, how could it be otherwise, than that a story so endorsed should be believed? It was added that her health and spirits were daily declining, and if something was not done she would very soon be beyond the reach of human aid. All that could be done by the writer, at that time, was to join her other friends in urging her to change her residence, at least for a short time, and proposing a literary undertaking that might engage her thoughts.

Not long after, information came that she had yielded to the entreaties of her friends, and accepted what seemed to be a favorable offer, to spend the winter in the extremest city of the South. For some time, her letters indicated that she was deriving the hoped-for benefits, but ere long it became manifest that there was no escape from the disasters that must inevitably pursue *any* woman thrown among strangers, with such deep and disgraceful implications resting on her character. A woman of her powers of pleasing, and her active and vigorous intellect, never could be placed *anywhere* without encountering some to whom she would be an object of envy, or whose wishes and plans would, in some way, be crossed. And whenever ill will or malignity found occasions for weapons of attack, what more efficacious ones could be desired, than in this case, could readily be found?

Notwithstanding all that occurred to disturb her, in this position, she continued to remain there until the time originally appointed for her return. Her next retreat was literally "into the wilderness," and, by a singular coincidence, to that very quarter where, so many years before, her father, with his young wife, first commenced the pioneer labors of a Home Missionary.

There, in the protecting refuge of a sister's home, she found the repose and consolations she needed,

and soon recovering cheerfulness and courage, she once more ventured to resume her beloved occupation as a teacher, at least so far as to collect a class for studying the Sacred Scriptures. The following is extracted from a letter addressed to her brother, from this retreat, but communicated at her request to the writer.

"As for me, I have been here in this sea of quiet so long, on this little island in the forest, walking up and down this lonely balcony, at morn, and noon, and dewy eve, and drinking *Lethe* with every breath, that I begin to look upon the world, and its toil and strife, somewhat as those do who have left it for ever. Objects which once seemed very large to me, appear now, in the mental perspective which this distance creates, absurdly little. The gossip of N. is no more to me here, than the gossip of the Ancient Egyptians! If there are any persons there who think it worth while to spend their fleeting probation in calumniating me, they can do it at their leisure. * * * Against these proceedings we have already entered our protest, and we can 'rest' there. In that calm of heart and soul to which God by his providence and by his grace has at length conducted me, I can afford to wait until 'the lying lips are put to silence.'

It has taken years of suffering to reconcile me to the cruel circumstances with which I have been so mysteriously surrounded; circumstances so ab-

horrent to all my natural sentiments, so revolting to my pride and delicacy, so wounding and crushing to all my sensibilities. I meant never to be reconciled to them. My sense of honor and justice forbade me to be reconciled to them. I meant to struggle with them unto death itself and while I had *any* being. But now that which was so abhorrent to me, has become familiar and natural. It is a part of my life. It has become to me like the rising and the setting of the sun, like the rain that falleth on the just and the unjust, or any other condition of my human existence, with which I have nothing to do. I struggle with it no longer. I do not seek to escape from it. The only question for me now is, what I am to do, what course I am to take in the new world of which these circumstances form a part,—which they indeed have created.

* * * * * *

If this little place had been scooped out of the wilderness for the express purpose of affording me the refuge and the rest which my soul needed, it could not have answered its purpose any better. It is that *distant* spot which I have often seen in visions, but never found,—the very place I yearned for when I said 'Oh that I had wings like a dove.' The rest and seclusion I have found here, have been to me like the sleep of *Macbeth's* remorseful vision. 'Sleep that knits up the ravelled sleeve of care, sore labor's

bath, balm of hurt minds, the birth of a new life.' But now I have rested and dreamed and slept long enough,—so at least my conscience tells me, and now, if I am not mistaken, the time has come for me to work."

Meantime, the writer, led on by a train of circumstances that need not be detailed, had nearly completed these pages, while more than half of what she had written was in type. For reasons hereafter indicated, it was decided to make no communication of this design to *any* person till the whole was completed and ready for publication. Just at this juncture, and before the reception of the above letter, a most unexpected communication was received from Miss D., stating that she had arrived at N. from the West, and requesting an interview for the purpose of consulting as to future plans.

This interview took place, and it was found that her proposed undertaking would place her in circumstances of conspicuity and trial, just at this juncture when it was important to her peace that she should, if possible, be "out of the world." What was the design of Providence in this seeming interference, was a matter of great perplexity. Knowing how agitating it would be to both parties to engage in the discussion that would follow a disclosure of the matter, the attempt was made to dissuade her from her

project, without assigning the chief reason. But this proved impracticable.

There was nothing to be done but to disclose the whole matter. As a preliminary, two promises were exacted: the first, that of secrecy; the second, that she would neither argue nor discuss the matter, inasmuch as it would be both distressing and utterly useless. The first half of the work was in the house and in print, and this was put into her hands. After her first emotions of surprise and dismay had subsided she read it.

During its perusal she made no comments, except once she quietly remarked, "It seems to me as if I were a third person reading the history of myself!"

When she had finished, after expressing her grateful estimate of the manner in which it was executed, she exclaimed,

"But I can never consent to its publication—never!"

"Nor do I expect, or wish you to consent. But be assured, there is nothing now can change my purpose, and if I had strength to tell you *all* my reasons, you would not *dare* to ask me to change it. And now you must remember your promise, not to distress me by arguing the case."

She looked perplexed and disturbed, and her next remark was, "I do not see, then, that you have left

anything for me to do but to burn down the printing office!"

"That would do no good, for you would only give me the trouble of writing it over again."

She then began to depict the direful consequences that would result to herself and to the writer from this publication. And finally, as if it might be that pecuniary considerations had some influence, she suggested,

"If you will let me show these pages to some persons in N., I could raise five hundred dollars to reimburse your expenses, and so that that need be no obstacle."

"No, my dear friend," was the reply, "the offer of five hundred *million* dollars would not move me one hair's breadth."

The result of this interview was what had been dreaded. The intense excitement which it occasioned to the lady so deeply interested in it, was attended by severe indisposition, which detained her several days in H. And the writer, by her sympathy with her, and by her efforts to relieve her apprehensions, was totally incapacitated from exertion for a month afterwards. As soon as Miss D. could leave her room, she returned to N., and soon after, the following letter was received from her.

Letter to Miss B.

"The physical pain I endured while I was with you, was more effectual than your own interdict in preventing me from expressing the feelings with which your communication overwhelmed me. *To think of it*, even, was impossible in that distress. But since, I have thought of little else. The position which you assume, places me in one inexpressibly distressing to me. The only remedy you leave me is a step which it is most painful to me to think of; one which every grateful and honorable sentiment *seems* to forbid. And I do not even know whether this would be of any avail.

My dear friend, surely you have not considered this movement sufficiently in its relation to myself! Do you know what you are doing? Are you not giving to the winds that which I esteem most precious? Are you not casting me out into the storm again after I have found rest and shelter?

You *could* not have assumed this responsibility if you had known what it involved to me. And that is what you never can know. For you must first measure the depths of the purposes which this movement of yours baffles; you must know how such purposes become interwoven with life itself, when they have been nurtured as these of mine have been. I cannot unfold to another the experience which is in-

volved in the mere *continuance of life* under *such conditions* as those which now burthen mine, so as to make you understand this. The work for which I thought myself prepared by all that I have suffered, that which rendered the prospect of my future life not endurable merely, but more precious than it had ever been before, must now be set aside again; and how do I know that God will ever give me again the heart to resume it? When I am engaged in my true and only vocation, all these events which seem at other times so disastrous, cease to afflict me. There is no longer any merit in enduring what becomes then so insignificant. To be permitted to pursue this vocation is all that I ask. I need and desire no other redress. And it is this resource which, for the present, at least, you are taking from me.

There is only one other, and that is God; and if I could live in heaven all the time, and have no life but His,—if I could respire *always* the ether of those divine heights to which such sorrows as mine must sometimes penetrate, I should indeed require no other. But how can I hope for that, while these earthly and human elements of my life retain the vitality which I find in them still, notwithstanding all the chemistry that has been tried on them? You do not know how calm and happy I was when your news overtook me; how clear the past and the future had become to me. Was it only for this that I have

been preparing, then? Is the new strength and hope with which I return from my year of travel and vicissitude, to be spent in this way,—in the renewal of this dreadful struggle, and of all that I have suffered in it, and in the endurance of an evil more dreadful to me than any thing which has yet befallen me?

How can I,—ah! how can I endure to figure in this wretched story again?—one which makes me despair of my kind whenever I recall it; one, too, which involves the renewal of associations *now* so humiliating to me. For it cannot, of course, be told without connecting my name anew with that of a person whose only distinction has been reaped from that association; one whose claim to my regard in his *best* estate, was the depth of his devotion to me, and the generosity, the *truth*, the *honor* which I ascribed to him. How can I endure the renewal of that association now; and that, too, on the very page which is darkened with these developments; now that he stands charged with conduct, compared with which that of the midnight thief and assassin, who should 'steal upon my *secure* hour' to rob me of money, or of life only, would be most chivalrous;—most brave and gentle! There are other aspects of this subject connected with this, not less painful to me,—some which I can hardly permit myself to think of. How can I endure to find what is so

sacredly private to myself, the topic of public discussion—of *such* discussion as that which must needs follow this publication? The outrage upon my sensibilities, perhaps, I might learn to endure; at least, it is not the *mere* pain which I deprecate, but the new draught upon my life which you are creating is what I think of most; the new expenditure of health and feeling which this will cost me, the new inroads on those golden moments which are growing, like the Sybil's volumes, costlier with each diminution. For I have something to *do* yet before I die, and I would gladly suffer all that I have suffered, and think it little, if that were the cost of its accomplishment;—I have work to do which is not my own,—'day labor,' and the night is at hand!

I am tired of this mere suffering. 'They also serve, who only stand and wait,' I know; but it does seem to me—I do not speak it irreverently—that I have had my share of this service already; or, at least, as if some one else might take my place awhile. I am tired of being 'a victim!' I do not wish to be 'a heroine!' I have had enough excitement already—enough of marvels and horrors to furnish twenty common lifetimes. How absurd it is that I should thus be thrown out of my part, and that this incongruous one, for which I am so wholly unfitted, should be thrust upon me!

If I could be convinced, indeed, that this, after all,

is only the fated instrumentality through which the ultimate purpose of God in this mystery is beginning to reveal itself, I might learn to regard it, perhaps, more heroically. If I could believe that this is, indeed, the appointed method through which all the anguish and wrath of this wide-struck root of bitterness will, in the end, work its way upward into the golden blossoms of truth and righteousness, and become unto other hearts, bloom and shelter; doubtless I should find even in this, also, strength with my need. But I cannot believe this! I *dare not* believe it! When I try to think of it, it is only to find myself standing on the verge of a calamity which I cannot measure, in awe, and doubt, and shuddering apprehension. If I think of it as inevitable, the earth itself dissolves under my feet, and there is nothing left to me but that which is older than the earth—the truths which were, and are, and are to come—the laws which do not fail, though heaven and earth should pass away. And this is the only view which can ever reconcile me to it. For the dissolution of this natural life will soon accomplish the same result, not for me only, but for all who are human; and certainly it is better that it should first happen to us here.

Do not seek to divert me from this view of the subject. Do not tell me that it is a measure which will, in fact, conduce to my temporal advantage, that it will restore what has been so lawlessly taken

from me. My beloved teacher, when the friends of many years were seeking only how they might betray me,—when those whom I had revered and honored, and those whom I had *trusted*, and those on whom I had lavished the daily and hourly kindness of years, were gathered together against me, you were with me, comforting and aiding me. By the memory of that dark accumulation of outrage,—that wrong in its comprehensiveness unmatched, I believe, in human story,—do not ask me to go out into the new tempest, that wilder and wider tempest which you are now loosening around me, trusting to such hopes as these! Do I not know what they would be in it? 'Reeds' and 'spiders webs!'

And, at all events, I am not willing to purchase such things as these, at *such* a price. I cannot purchase any thing but heaven at this cost! Tell me that it will make me better; assure me that the evil which has survived so many sorrows will be consumed in this; tell me that this, after all, is *the* tribulation, the final struggle, the last initiation, through which I shall enter the inner temple 'to go no more out of it,' tell me *this*—assure me of it, if you wish me to find the courage to meet it.

If you consider for one moment what the position is in which you are now placing me, you cannot, I am sure, expect me to look at it in any other way than this. Think what forces you are arraying

against me in my helplessness, *and what the struggle is* to which you now summon them; think what this step is to me in itself, apart from any *such* consideration of its consequences, and you will see how impossible it is that I should be reconciled to it, so long, at least, as there remains a possibility of averting it. For you cannot believe that the party whom you summon to this conflict will be any *less* active, or any more scrupulous *now*, than they were when it first began. Now, too, that they are put upon a defence, otherwise so desperate, what shall prevent the renewal of the same machinations, and the same outrages upon truth and justice? The misrepresentations of those who attempted to sustain them, by violating my confidence, and all that mass of ill-natured criticism and gossip which constituted the evidence against me, will, of course, be reproduced with such additions as the nature of the present exigency may require. So you see, beforehand, some of the fiery garlands and sacrificial ornaments of this new kind of martyrdom, to which, without my own consent, you wish to dedicate me. Whatever its rewards may be, I am likely, at least, to have a chance to earn them. Truly, if I *could* dare this; if I could *voluntarily* place myself in such a position 'for the kingdom of heaven's sake,' those who died of old in the same behalf, by 'the serpent's tooth,' or 'the poison of asps;' those who died by

'cord, or steel, or fire,' or any kind of physical suffering, would have no right to lift up their heads beside me. But I do *not* consent to it! I am so constituted that I *can* not consent to it. And if, in view of the unalterable determination which you expressed to me in our recent conversation, I should even find myself compelled to assume a different position towards you, however seemingly hostile that position may be, and however painful the results to us both, you will not—you must not believe that such a movement is sustained on my part by the least forgetfulness of what I owe you."

The following is from the author to Miss D.

"I told you that the book should not be issued till you had read the whole of it, and that I would summon you as soon as it was completed. My delay has been owing to the fact, that the excitement of meeting you, and of discussing this matter, has so affected my health, that though I had only about three days' work to accomplish, I had not written a line till yesterday. I wish now you would come immediately, as it will be completed by the time you arrive.

When we met, I was too much excited, and too much exhausted, to communicate to you a tithe of what you need to know, in order to meet this crisis. My aim was, in the first place, to convince you that the result was *inevitable;* that, as you did before, you

might find peace in submitting to it as appointed by God; and in the next place, to lessen your exaggerated view of the probable evils of the result. I did not expect to obtain your consent, and I do not wish for your help. All I wish is, that you shall not *oppose* me by any serious obstacle; and when I see you, I know I can convince you that your attempting such opposition would be turning traitor to the very principles for which you have suffered so bitterly, yet so bravely.

As to the trouble to your brother and his family, do you not know that those who are honored to meet worthily the seasons that try men's souls, are rather to be counted blessed? When I saw your brother, with his new made wife just entering on her arduous duties; with his young daughter at the most sensitive period of life, with his first-born son passing from the blush of manhood to an early grave, meeting such an attack on his domestic peace, such a shower of outrage and obloquy, with such patient firmness, such manly dignity, such Christian meekness,* I could not

* A short time after the investigation, two friends of the writer, in a public conveyance, heard the honorable gentleman who was employed *against* the brother, expressing his views in reference to him. On the same day, they met the writer, and one of them stated, in general terms, that this gentleman expressed the highest admiration of the *courtesy and ability* with which the brother conducted his cause. The other stated, more specifically, that this gentleman remarked that the brother's deportment was so entirely that of *a gentleman and a Christian*, that he had no heart to attack him.

but feel the full force of the inspired injunction, to 'count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.' And when I saw how generously that wife and daughter forgot themselves, and clung to you and to the cause of womanhood, and with what gentleness and dignity they deported themselves in those circumstances of trial, I could not but rejoice for them also. And, whatever may yet be before them, ere this mystery is completed, be assured they will have no occasion, in the end, to regret their connection with it.

And as to others, who are nearest and dearest to you, those who have suffered most in this matter through their affection for you, they will in the end, I doubt not, rejoice in what I have done. Even the one whose anger you think I have most reason to deprecate, whose sensitiveness to what *your* interests required of him, has fortunately secured to your assailants, hitherto, that personal immunity which nothing else, perhaps, in the circumstances, could have given to them, whatever position he may be induced to take upon the first discovery of this proceeding, he will in the end, I doubt not, not only justify me, but thank me for it.

As to the forces which you say I am arraying against you, after all, what real injury can they do you? In all that array of testimony, procured by such indefatigable labor, and such lavish expense of

time and means on the part of your assailants, there is not a solitary *fact* which, justly stated in its *true* connection, can injure you with any one. And as to that mass of ill-natured criticism and gossip which you refer to, that mass of OPINIONS and IMPRESSIONS, produced, in the first instance, by the misrepresentations of your enemies, and then collected by them and produced as *testimony*, if they dare to publish to the world that evidence against themselves, and against the tribunal which permitted such things to be received as *testimony*, be assured the world will know how to understand it. For it is no longer a committee of *three*, acting under the immediate influence of your assailants, and in *private* communication with them, who are to judge this matter, but men of unbiassed will and judgment, men of sense and honor, who understand the laws which protect character, and their own interest in them.

As to that history of the affair which the conduct of those who betrayed your confidence to your enemies compelled you to give, be assured your opponents would as soon think of tying a millstone around their necks to swim with, instead of a life-preserver, as to do any thing which shall render its publication, as a whole, necessary. And even if it should come to that, though designed only for the few who were so deeply interested in it, as I have it now, taken down from your lips at the time, there is not a word

in it for which you need blush, if it were published to the world.

For beside being true and consistent, it is in perfectly good taste. It is exactly befitting your character in that unparalleled array of circumstances in which it was produced. It was because the effect of that statement, in its simplicity and truthfulness, was so much dreaded by the counsel on the other side, that such indefatigable attempts were made on their part to misrepresent and pervert it. I have always regarded your statement as containing, in itself, one of the highest evidences of its truth. For to *make up* such a story, in so many minute details of dates, persons, and letters, and yet escape the search of a legal cross-examination, would imply nothing less than a miracle, or else the possession, on your part, of superhuman gifts.

But you have nothing to apprehend on that point. That statement of yours will never see the light, for its *existence* is a disgrace to manhood; and every man, who is worthy of the name, would wish, for his own sake, to annihilate the recollection of it, rather than seek to perpetuate it. As to what those men may attempt, who are the first and real authors of all this evil, I cannot conjecture. Some statement made up of garbled extracts from the testimony, interspersed with the various falsehoods which have

been so current, will, perhaps, be produced. I have no fears as to the final result of any such attempt.

The only evil I have feared for you, is the renewal of that hateful notoriety, to an affair, which it was such an outrage, in those who oppress you, to drag before the public. But even in this, I have planned to save your feelings, if you will but return to the fealty of your childhood, and obey me as you did then. In this period of constantly recurring excitement, the discussion of this matter, and all that may result from it, cannot last very long. That period you shall spend in this secluded retreat, and I will so arrange it with the kind friends who will surround you, that you shall not hear, or read, a word on the subject. And these gushing fountains, that so often have cooled my brain, and invigorated my exhausted nerves, shall bring peace to your mind and health to your cheek. And when I return from my western tour, we will quietly set ourselves to work, and complete that incipient book, which I have so much and so long desired to see executed by our combined agency.

This case is now to come before a very different tribunal from that at N.; and when the truth comes out, *as it must*, every good and honorable man, and every just and generous woman, will become your defenders. Nay, I do not believe that there will be a single heart which retains the least remnant of hu-

manity, that will not be upon your side. Meanwhile, the blame and the outcry of those who would still 'hush up' this monstrous outrage, will all be turned on me. Let it come. I cannot suffer in a better cause.

There is one sentence in one of your letters, which pictures the attitude of my mind ever since these astonishing developments. You say, 'I meant never to be reconciled to them. I meant to struggle with them till death itself, and while I had *any* being.' That Almighty hand which has erased this purpose from your mind, has written it, as with living fire, upon mine. And if all the human voices, on this vast globe, should come up in one roar of rebuke and defiance, it would not move me. For I know that I am clinging to those adamantine principles that are the pillars of the Eternal Throne, and thus that I 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty.'"

Letter from the Author to Dr. ——.

"Rev. Sir:—

When I called and requested the loan of the testimony in the case of Mr. A., I simply stated that my sister was designing to secure to the ladies of C. the course of historical lessons formerly given by your sister at N. and H., and that I wished to re-write my *statement*, which she would have occasion to use for

that purpose. At the time, I had decided, *definitely*, on no other measure, nor did I give you reason to suspect any thing else.

When I decided to prepare and *publish* this work, I also determined to do it without involving any other person in *any sort* of responsibility in regard to it. This determination I have carried through, so that, with the exception of yourself and your sister, I have never had any communication in reference to its contents, with any human being, save those engaged in its publication. Nor have I supposed that any person ever *suspected* what I was doing, till the work was on the eve of publication.

Of the method in which my secret came to my family friends, and their measures to induce you and others to interfere to suppress the work, you are apprised. In regard to these friends, the fact that I have studiously avoided drawing them into the matter as partisans, while the party opposed to me have had a full chance to make any representations they pleased, without any effort on my part to inquire as to the effect of their statements, or to attempt to counteract them, together with the fact that they discovered merely the *subject*, and knew nothing of the *contents* of this work, are my excuse for them in this unwitting attempt of theirs to suppress judgment and equity. Had they known what they were doing, I should form a very different estimate both of their

motives and conduct. As it is, I regret only the trouble and anxiety they have experienced, while I rejoice in the proof thus afforded, that the sole responsibility in this matter belongs to me.

Could the public have witnessed my recent *hegira*, with my various brothers in full pursuit, some of them fancying an insane hospital my only proper residence, while my expedients for escape and concealment were more suitable for a "fugitive from," than a seeker of "justice," they would at least be convinced of the honest intentions of those nearest to me, to save me and the public from mischief. Fortunately this occurred when nothing but my agency could stop the publication, and I had little else to do but persevere in personal concealment.

In respect to *your* view of the subject, as one who knows all that I know upon it, (though not as one who has read the book,) permit me to state my reasons for dissent. In the first place, in reference to the interests of your sister. When you first moved to fulfill your obligations as a Christian minister, *then* was the time when all that could be said in respect to the evil *to her*, inseparable from any attempt to remedy such a wrong, should have been said, if ever. For that vindication *once commenced*, so far as *her* welfare was concerned, no matter at what temporary expense of feeling, there was no alternative but to go on, patiently, unto the end. The unparalleled

position in which your sister was placed by that most unheard of attack upon her reputation, sustained by so many distinguished professors and doctors of divinity, the grave assertions made by these gentlemen in regard to the nature of the evidence existing against her, and especially the notoriety already given to these statements, rendered *some* movement of this sort inevitable, even had you acted in the matter as *her* defender only. But in referring it to a tribunal composed in part of the very persons who had taken the lead in diffusing and sustaining these statements, in referring it to the association in which these professors could openly claim in discussion the authority of the instructor over his pupil, and where the influence of the university over the clergy in its immediate vicinity was so sure to operate against you; in referring it to *that* tribunal, you must certainly have been decided by other than personal considerations. It was not your choice. As a man of integrity and honor in the position in which you were then placed, you had, indeed, no alternative. The inexorable voice of duty called to you out of the heavens, as once it called to one of old. And without hesitation or scruple you devoted to that hazard so appalling, your own interests, and the interests of one so dear to you. You could not, indeed, have anticipated the result. No one who had any respect for the honor of your profession, knowing the facts

in the case, and the evidence to be adduced, could have anticipated it. What that result has been to your sister, you know too well! To add to the calumny which already oppressed her, the weight of an ecclesiastical decision, to array against her reputation and usefulness, the influence which the clergy, as an order, exert upon society at large, this has been its result to her. For the decision of the association was regarded by the world as an acquittal of her calumniators. You could not contest that point without continuing the strife on another field. Every thing in your own position seemed to forbid it, and how could you subject your sister to the continued horrors of such a controversy? And so the wrong was permitted to triumph! I do not blame you, but I say again, the matter having been carried *thus far*, even your sister's interests required that it should *go farther*. The result has shown it. As to its 'dying away,' the noise and clamor of that great struggle has, indeed, ceased. Society is no longer disturbed with it. But with her, the influence of that decision can never die, while it remains unquestioned. How, for instance, could she ever put into execution, with such a ban resting upon her, the enterprize which she has had the courage to plan, in the face of these obstacles. For wherever there is a clergyman who has heard of this decision, *there* is one bound by the interests of his profession, and his respect for

those who occupy so prominent a place in it, to distrust and denounce her. Even that atrocious affair at O. is only a specimen of the kind of injury to which she will inevitably be subjected while she lives, if the matter is permitted to rest here. It has already been acted over again, on a smaller scale, in a more secluded society.

This is the way in which it operates. To a mind like hers, the voice of sympathy and kindness is like the alchemy of crystalization. Every thing in her nature becomes transparent, and the attraction is then irresistible. She becomes an object of regard and attention, and ere long, also, an object of envy, to some one whose path she has happened to cross. Instantly this monstrous scandal is brought up as a subject of discussion, while falsehood and malignity are sustained by such powerful allies, and friendship and truth are exasperated and outraged, at the developments that must be made in her defence. No, Sir, *such* a woman, with *such* a calumny affixed to her by *such* men, is, and must be, the center of a perpetual warfare. There is no peace to her, or to me, whose destiny is now united with hers, till this wrong, as far as it can be, is righted.

As to your views of the matter in reference to general principles, and the public good, allow me to inquire, whether you are aware of the full import of your position? You assure me that you believe that

this is one of the things that never can be righted in this world, and that all we can safely do, is patiently to await the judgment of the last great day. That is, you would have me believe that such a woman as your sister, such a man as yourself, such a body of pastors as that minority, with the ex-president of the college at their head, knowing all that they do know of the conduct of this their licentiate, are actually oppressed, and overborne, and crushed into necessary silence; so that, under their very eyes, they must daily continue to behold this man, whom they believe to be so guilty, cherished and honored by the leaders of social life, and invited to our pulpits, as a religious teacher to the insulted churches of our country!

It is in this view of the subject that I am led to address, through you, whom I regard as their worthy representative, *the parochial clergy of New England*, especially those of your denomination.

And in this unparalleled outrage on female character and sensibilities, to whom could I more appropriately appeal? For it is the orphan child of their pioneer Home Missionary, on whose head her father's brethren have laid this cruel burthen, against whom the influence and authority of her father's profession has been so fatally arrayed; it is the daughter of one who went to his grave in the prime of his manhood, smitten with the premature decay which the unappreciated toils and struggles of that brave service of

Christ in the wilderness had won for him. And it is the daughters of the beloved patriarch of their churches, and the sisters of *so many* of their faithful brethren, who have been called to stand by her side in the fiercest center of this fearful conflict,—a conflict not for the principles of truth and justice only, but for the honor and purity of your sacred profession. To the pastors of New England, then, as to fathers and brethren, let me, through you, submit these topics for inquiry.

Is it not the object of the church, and especially of its ministers, to bring their fellow-men to *believe right*, to *feel right*, and to *act right*, under the guidance of the teachings of Christ as the *only true standard?* And is not *right belief* the indispensable prerequisite to right feeling and right action, so that it is only he who believes the *true and real* teachings of Christ who can be saved?

Supposing this to be answered in the affirmative, what, then, is the duty of the church and its ministers, when those who stand as the very leaders of the church and ministry, under the influence of *feeling*, have made themselves *believe wrong?* And what is to be the distinction, if any, in dealing with those who may err in regard to dogmas based solely on interpretations of Greek and Hebrew, and those who err in regard to the great principles of truth and justice which are written on our hearts, and can be

read by every child who is old enough to spell out the "golden rule?"

We have seen what has been done when *a single individual* calls in question some of the *philosophical theories* used in explaining and making consistent certain revealed facts. Committees are appointed to examine into the matter, resolutions are brought into both local and State Ministerial Associations, remonstrances are issued against the decisions of other Associations, while all the religious periodicals of the country are teeming with discussions and reviews.

It has been seen, too, what is done by evangelical ministers and churches, when the leading moral and religious teachers of a distinguished University adopt *speculative* opinions, held to be fundamentally erroneous. In the popular mind, the very name and character of that institution rests upon this fact, while not only ministers but private Christians unite in withdrawing their sons from its boundaries, as the abode of fatal errors.

What, then, is to be done when both the majority of a leading Ministerial Association, and *all* the moral and religious instructors of the leading University of New England have *practically* assumed such principles as appear in their actions herein disclosed?

Allow me farther to inquire, whether the fundamental error of Jesuitism does not consist in invert-

ing the true order of things, so as to make truth and righteousness secondary, and subordinate to the outward prosperity of "*the church?*" If so, is not an attempt to "hush up" inquiry, when the principles of justice are cast down, for fear of injury to a church, or a college, or to individuals identified with such institutions, any thing other or better than *Protestant Jesuitism?*

Finally, I would urge one query in reference to the duty of my own sex in this matter. Is not the family sanctuary under the watch and care of woman, just as the church and its ministry are under the watch and care of your sex? And when, not only a conspicuous theological seminary, and a leading ecclesiastical body, but the principal University of our country, through its teachers of morals and religion, *practically* avow such principles as have been here developed, is it not a proper occasion for every intelligent and self-respecting woman to inquire as to "creeds and confessions" in regulating admission to social and domestic life? The duties of the sexes toward each other are relative and reciprocal, and when the chief instructors in our leading University assume such principles in matters of *honor*, is not this inquiry the especial duty of all to whom the education of our sex is intrusted?

As to the probable consequences of this appeal to

the public, my confidence is based on an experience diverse from yours. If there is any thing for which I have had occasion to feel proud of my country, it is for that estimation and honorable regard which is paid to my sex, and which I have had unusual opportunities to observe. Far back in early youth, I remember that beautiful village, as a string of pearls across an emerald summit, with its sapphire lake and "heaven-kissing hills," where were annually gathered from fifty to one hundred sons of the first families of the land. There were assembled the finest specimens of 'the chivalry of the South,'—men, too, who are now filling the highest posts of honor. There, with my young companions, we mingled on the most familiar terms, with those who now are the ornaments of the *legal* profession in every quarter of the nation. As the daughter and sister of *seven* clergymen, connected with three of our largest ecclesiastical denominations, and resident in all sections of the free states, I have had equal facilities for learning the character of the *clerical* profession. A traveller and visitor, for years, in almost every State in the Union, and finally engaged in a benevolent enterprise which has carried me, and usually without a protector, over fifteen thousand miles of journeys in a space of three years, and brought me into contact with the leading minds of all denominations,—all this has only added to the confiding trust I have felt in the *chivalrous*

honor of my countrymen,—for in the whole of my life, I never received an insult or injury from one of them, or any thing but the kindest and most respectful consideration. And this recent development is to me an exception to all past experience, as strange and as astounding as the recent murder of one of the friend of a sister university, should it prove to have been accomplished by the hands of one of its *professors*, with circumstances of such unparalleled atrocity.

And when I appeal, as I now do, to the parochial clergy of my country, and especially to those of New England, I believe, and with the very best opportunities of judging, that I am addressing not only the most honest, upright and pious, but the most *honorable* body of men, to be found in this or any other land. And I believe, when their attention is fairly directed to this most unparalleled development, they will search and find *a cause*,—a long hidden *root of evil*, from which this is only *one* effect; a root which men, who have the care of souls resting on their hearts and consciences, can best discover and appreciate; and which, to them at least, will fully account for this heavy judgment which has fallen on this beloved and time-honored institution.

These are the men who, I believe, will gather firmly, and without flinching, for the support of the principles of HONOR, TRUTH, and JUSTICE; and they, by

God's blessing, will yet bring forth judgment unto victory. And when this is done, that fair and honorable name, which has been so cruelly assailed and darkened, and "chased as a bird to the mountains," will come forth "as a dove, whose wings are covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold."

There is one aspect of the case which fills me with unmitigated distress. *The gray hairs of my father's friend!*—you can well understand how the plea for them has knocked at my heart, till, again and again, my spirit has died within me. But a hand that I could not relinquish, has led me on,—a voice that I would not disobey has bade me go forward. I do assure you, if an angel with a drawn sword had barred my advance in any other path, and if, as of old, his majestic voice had commanded "thus saith the Lord, write all these words in a book," my mind would have been no more strongly bound, than it now is, to the fulfilment of this undertaking.

But the question may be asked, what right have I to publish this matter, and especially to use in this way the documents which you furnished me for another purpose?

As to the first part of the question, the *book itself* is my answer, and if that does not contain reasons enough to justify me, (although I *could* offer many more,) *no* public appeal for justice could ever be justified. As to the documents used, you are aware

that, when the book was about complete, you were apprised of my design, and were informed that you could withdraw all the documents that you had a right to control, but that I still should have a right to insert my *description* of their contents, and this I certainly should do. You declined taking this, or any other responsibility in the case.

Let me close this painful history of human weakness, with an extract from a powerful writer, whose name is never needed to identify his productions.

"The greatest of faults, I should say, is the *consciousness of none.* Readers of the Bible, one would think, might know better. Who is there called 'the man after God's own heart?' David, the Hebrew king, had fallen into sins enough,—blackest crimes; there was no want of sins. And thereupon the unbelieving sneer, and ask, 'is this your man after God's heart?' The sneer, I must say, seems but a shallow one. What are faults, what are the outward details of a life, if the inner secret of it,—the remorse, temptations,—true, often baffled, never ended *struggle* of it be forgotten? Of all acts, is not, for a man, *repentance* the most divine? The deadliest sin, I say, were that same supercilious consciousness of no sin. That is death! The heart, so conscious, is divorced from sincerity, humility, and fact. It is 'pure,' as dead dry sand is pure. David's life and history, as written for us in those Psalms of his, I consider to be

the truest emblem ever given of a man's moral progress and warfare here below. All earnest souls will ever discern in it the faithful struggle of an earnest human soul towards what is good and best. Struggle often baffled, soon baffled, down into entire wreck, yet a struggle never ended; ever with tears, repentance, true, unconquerable purpose begun anew. In this wild element of life, man has to struggle onwards; now fallen, deep abased; and ever with tears, repentance, with bleeding heart, he has to rise again, struggle again onwards. That his struggle *be* a faithful, unconquerable one,—*that* is the question of questions!"

THE END.

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